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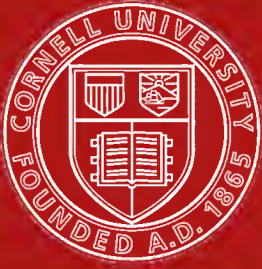
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The dedication of the Bennington Battle



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COMPLIMENTS OF
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THE BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT.

THE DEDICATION

OF THE

BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT, AND CELEBRATION OF THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADMISSION OF VERMONT AS A STATE,

AT BENNINGTON, AUGUST 19, A.D., 1891,

WITH AN

HISTORIC INTRODUCTION AND APPENDICES.

Illustrated.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE CENTENNIAL
COMMITTEE.

BENNINGTON:
BANNER BOOK AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE.
1892.



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Historian of the Centennial Committee.

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PREFACE.

At a joint meeting of the State Committee, appointed by Act No. 175, of the Laws of 1890, and the Citizens Committee of Fifty (See page 66), held in Rutland on the evening of November 25, 1891, the undersigned was elected Historiographer of the Committees aforesaid. Measures were also taken at that meeting to publish this volume, which should serve as an official record of the subjects embodied in its title page.

Between the celebrations of August 19, 1891, and the date of this meeting there had arisen a great demand for such a work. Prominent gentlemen had repeatedly written to Governor Page; and, also, to others of the Official Committee, asking that a *brochure* of the Centennial and Monument Dedication be prepared immediately, and published. The press of the State, and the city press of New England and New York, joined in the suggestion. The *St. Albans Messenger* probably stated this demand in a crystalized form when it said:

“The events at Bennington have furnished to the newspapers of the country abundant material to fill their columns with, topics for reviews of a century or more, and comparisons; which opportunities have been utilized. These things, brought together, constitute the ‘Alpha and Omega’ of Vermont, so far as the present is concerned; starting out from Bennington and focussing again at the same point. The history of Bennington is more largely the history of the State than that of any other single town. It was the first town organized, and the independent and courageous spirit there developed, gave direction to the Commonwealth. The full story, when once entered upon, is a task for books and books, far beyond the capacity of any newspaper published, and especially is beyond the limits of any State paper. Some papers have gone more into details than others; yet, in the comparison, the most elaborate publications have been brief.”

The space given to the event, by the newspapers, had made it widely known. The number and prominence of the people engaged as hosts and guests, the action taken by Legislative bodies, all tended to confirm the popular idea that this celebration was second to none that had preceded it; if, indeed, it was not the crowning feature of the century in New England. The succeeding pages are the outcome of these circumstances and suggestions.

The “Plan of the work,” as shown by the “Table of Contents,”

divides the volume into four parts, viz. : (a) An Historic Introduction, wherein is set forth in narrative form, mainly, the principal events leading up to the dual Celebration of August, 1891, with the documentary history most readily suggested ; the whole comprising an explanation of the events commemorated. (b) Part I. is the body of the work, and may be called the "History" itself. (c) Part II. is the story, *in extenso*, and includes the details ; separated from Part I. so that the reader will not be *obliged* to read a mass of incidental matters in connection with the account of the ceremonies. (d) The Appendix, which takes up the subjects auxiliary, and concludes the whole. The Editor claims that the plan is original and that the aim has been to state all the facts at his command in a concise and impartial manner. That mistakes may be found is admitted, but after eight months of care and painstaking labor, both in the matter of the text and the illustrations, this volume is confidently submitted to the verdict of History.

Acknowledgments. — The undersigned courteously acknowledges the obligation he is under to his brethren of the Guild Editorial ; to the Librarian of the Bennington Free Library, for the use of valuable historical works, such as "Governor and Council," "Hall's Vermont," "Vermont Historical Society's Publications" ; and to others whose names appear in the body of the work ; to C. D. Cook & Company, caterers, and R. M. Yale & Company, of Boston, for facts embodied in their respective departments, etc. ; to Messrs. J. M. Francis & Son, of the Troy, N. Y. *Times*, for the use of the engravings : "Monument Avenue," etc. (page 8), and the "Swift House" (page 20) ; and, last but not least, for the elegant pen-drawings of the "Catamount Tavern," and the "Old First Church." The former was contributed to this work by Mrs. J. G. McCullough, from a sketch she made of the building while it was yet standing ; and the latter was drawn by her daughter, Miss Ella S. McCullough.

The Editor believes that the illustrations of this work, fifty-five in number, will contribute in no small degree to the interest of the reader.

HENRY LEONARD STILLSON.

"The Study," Bennington, Vt., June 14, 1892.

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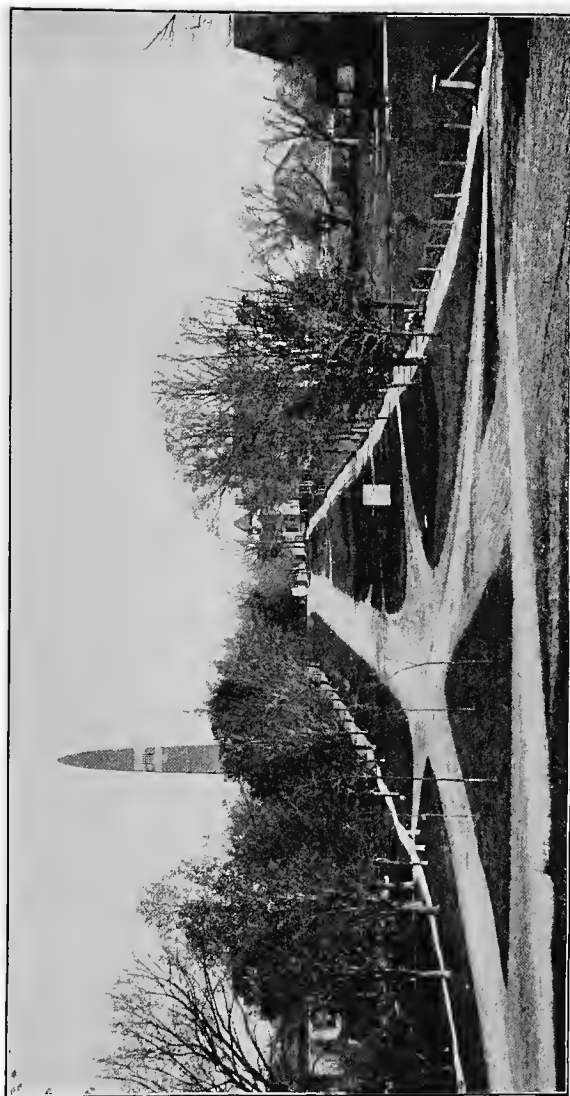
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MONUMENT AVENUE—PEDESTAL OF CATAMOUNT MONUMENT IN THE FOREGROUND.

Inscription: "In enduring honor of that love of Liberty, and of their Homes, displayed by the Pioneers of this Commonwealth. Forty-five feet East of this spot stood 'The Catamount Tavern,' Erected about A.D., 1769; Destroyed by fire March 30, A.D., 1871. Within its walls convened 'The Council of Safety' A.D., 1772-'78."

HISTORIC INTRODUCTION.

The Celebrations of Bennington Battle ; First Speech and First Poem, with a Sketch of the Orator and Poet ; Reminiscences and Recollections. The Battle Monument, and Events leading up to its Erection ; Legislative Acts of A.D., 1853, and, A.D., 1876 ; "77" in this History. The Ceremonies of Laying the Corner-stone August 16, A.D., 1887, and the Cope-stone November 25, A. D., 1889 ; Vermont as an Independent State.

DIVISION I.

THE CELEBRATIONS OF BENNINGTON BATTLE.

The first anniversary of the battle was celebrated, at Bennington, August 16, 1778. Tradition says that the exercises took place on the grounds that are now the site of the Battle Monument. Whether this is authentic, or not, it is a reasonable probability. In later years it was a common custom to form a procession on the spot where the monument stands, march to the "Old First Church" edifice, situated on the plateau below the "Robinson" homestead, there listen to the oration, and march back to the "State Arms" hotel, where the banquets were served, and toasts responded to. Such may have been the proceedings on the memorable occasion of 1778.

Referring to the first, and subsequent, celebrations of Bennington Battle, the Vermont Historical Society says, in its "Collections," Vol. I., page 257: "The Battle of Bennington was fought August 16, 1777, and its anniversaries have ever since been observed as holidays in that, and, sometimes, also in the neighboring towns, and have been celebrated with all the demonstrations of rejoicing that are usual through the country on 'Independence Day'; such as the discharge of cannon, the display of banners, military parades, processions with music, orations and public dinners."

The Orator of the "First Celebration" was Noah Smith, A.B., and the Poet was Stephen Jacob; both, afterward, famous at the Bar and on the Bench of Vermont, their adopted State. Both were graduates of Yale University, class of 1778, and among their class-mates were men who, like themselves, became highly dis-

tinguished. Among these we name: Joel Barlow, author of the *Columbiad*, and Minister to the Court of France; Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury under Washington, and Governor of Connecticut; Uriah Tracy, a distinguished United States Senator from Connecticut; Zephaniah Swift, Chief Judge; and Ashur Miller, Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and Noah Webster, the great Lexicographer; besides many others, members of Congress or great political leaders at the beginning of this century.

From the Historical Society's publications we excerpt a brief sketch of Judge Smith: "Noah Smith was admitted to the Bar of the Superior Court of the State, at Westminster, in May, 1779; was at the same term appointed State's Attorney, *pro tempore*, for Cumberland County, and was immediately engaged in his official capacity in the prosecution of a number of the adherents of New York, who had been concerned in resisting the authority of the State, and whose conviction he procured. Having settled in Bennington he was, soon afterward, appointed State's Attorney for Bennington County, which office he held for several years. He was a Judge of the Supreme Court for five years prior to 1801, and he was also Collector of the United States Internal Revenue under the administration of President Washington. Israel Smith, his younger brother, read law with him in Bennington; began practice at Rupert, removed to Rutland, and became Governor of the State in 1807." Noah Smith was born at Suffield, Connecticut, January 27, 1756, and settled in Bennington in 1779. He removed to Milton soon after the year 1800, where he died December 24, 1812.

The "History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders," 1891, page 236, says: "The first Grand Master was the first orator at the first celebration of Bennington Battle. Under date of Thursday, November 28, 1889, *The Banner* (a local newspaper), reporting the laying of the cope-stone of the Bennington monument (the corner-stone of which was laid by the Grand Lodge of Vermont, August 16, 1887), said: 'This monument commemorates more than a local engagement of "embattled farmers" with the trained troops of proud Britain. We have alluded to it as the "turning point" in the Revolution. The orator of the first celebration of the Battle of Bennington, Noah Smith, Esq., said on August 16, 1778: "To the effects of this action must be attributed in a considerable degree the series of successes which have attended our arms." How truthful were his prophetic words [1778]: "This establishes our independence, and must soon put a period to the calamities of war." Standing, then, in the immediate presence of the fruits of that engagement, he fully recognized the debt of gratitude due to those

who had accomplished such a victory; and, commenting further, says: "Are these the effects of the Battle of Bennington? Are these the prospects which attend the Republic of America? Then what laurels are due to General Stark and those bold assertors of liberty whose determined resolution and undaunted courage effected the salvation of our country?" Brother Smith was then fresh from collegiate honors at Yale. A few years later, after having ascended the ladder of judicial fame in this State, he assisted in forming the Grand Lodge of Vermont, and was its first Grand Master, holding the office and discharging its duties with credit to himself and honor to the Fraternity, from 1794 to 1797. It was eminently fitting, therefore, that his fraternal successor, Colonel Alfred A. Hall, Grand Master of Freemasons, should lay the corner-stone on the battle anniversary in 1887, and that the flag of that society should float from the cope-stone on Monday."

Hon. Russell S. Taft has lately prepared an interesting biography of Stephen Jacob, the "Twentieth Judge of the Vermont Supreme Court." He refers to the famous trial, on account of a negro slave, Dinah, reported in 2 Tyler's Reports, page 192, and adds: "It is a singular coincidence that Judge Jacob, one who brought a slave into the State, with his title in writing, should have been succeeded by the unlettered Republican, Theophilus Harrington, who, to remand a slave back into bondage, ruled that the claimant must trace his title back to the original proprietor, and required as evidence a bill of sale from the Almighty."

Hon. Wm. P. Baxter, of Chicago, Ill., by whose authority we give the dates in Judge Jacob's life, has thoroughly investigated the early history of this Vermont jurist and first Bennington Battle Poet. Stephen Jacob was born in Sheffield, Mass., December 7, 1755, and died at Windsor, Vermont, June 27, 1816. Judge Taft says: "I think no one in this State ever rose more rapidly in the legal profession than he. The county court was not established in Windsor County until 1781, and from that time until his elevation to the Chief Judgeship of that court in 1797, he was counsel in substantially all the litigation in that part of the State. At the October term, 1782, his name appears as counsel in forty-six of the fifty-eight cases, and he may have been counsel in more, as the names of counsel are not in all cases given." Judge Jacob represented Windsor in the General Assembly on several occasions, was one of the Council of Censors in 1785, and was appointed one of the Commissioners as to a "Jurisdictional or boundary line between the State of New York and the State of Vermont; and to adjust and finally determine, all and every matter or thing which, in anywise,

obstructs a union of this State with the United States," in 1789. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1793, a State Councillor for five years, ending in 1800; and a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1801 and 1802.

The speech and poem at the celebration of the victory at Bennington, August 16, 1778, were printed at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1779, and are accompanied by a "Vote of Thanks," signed by Jonas Fay, "Clerk of the Committee," furnishing us with the only clue we now have to the movers in that event. It reads as follows: "The committee (consisting of five), chosen by the people who composed the audience, return their thanks to Messrs. Noah Smith and Stephen Jacob for their agreeable orations delivered in commemoration of the battle fought at Bennington on the memorable 16th of August, 1777, and desire a copy thereof for the press."

The text of the "Speech" and "Poem" is furnished for this Centennial Volume by Hon. W. P. Baxter, from an original pamphlet in his possession, and is as follows :

A SPEECH DELIVERED AT BENNINGTON ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
16TH OF AUGUST, 1777, BY NOAH SMITH, A.B. — HARTFORD :
PRINTED BY WATSON & GOODWIN, MDCCLXXIX.

ORATION BY NOAH SMITH.—The history of America during the last twelve months relates events favorable to a degree which has exceeded our expectations, established our independence and astonished the world. Among which none have been more signal than that which happened on the memorable 16th of August, 1777, of which this is the anniversary.

The recollection of past events, whether merciful or afflictive, often produces a good effect in the human mind, by leading it to view the operations of that Being by whose permission all judgments are inflicted and to whose benignity all deliverances must be attributed.

It is presumed that the history of these Northern campaigns is so fresh in the memory of everyone present, that a repetition of it would be neither entertaining nor instructive; therefore, waiving the description of the progress of our arms into Canada, and of the defeat and death of the brave General Montgomery, which was productive of the most precipitant and confused retreat, we need only mention that Ticonderoga was adjudged a proper place to make opposition.

This being by its natural situation the key of the country, to maintain it — was the determination of every man who wished well of America.

For more than fourteen months, while this was the object, no sums were too great to be expended and no fatigue too painful to be endured; so that when the third campaign was opened, the works were so completely finished, the store-houses so amply supplied with provisions, the lines so sufficiently manned, and the whole country so ready to fly to their assistance upon any emergency, that it was thought nothing but the infernal hands of cowardice or treachery could have delivered them into the enemy's possession.

Under these circumstances the people in this department, not considering that disappointments are common to mankind in a state of imperfection, pursued their business with no less security than diligence.

But a train of evils, which at this time like a mighty torrent rushed in upon us, soon discovered how vain and unscriptural it is to trust in fortifications, for within eight days after Burgoyne appeared upon the Lake, he found means to possess himself of the forts, which laid our numerous army under a necessity of fleeing before him, and filled the whole country with consternation and amazement.

In this condition every battle he attempted was succeeded by victory and every advance he made was conquest.

The inhabitants of the Northern districts for more than one hundred miles in length were obliged to quit everything they possessed, and for subsistence had no other dependence but the benignity of heaven and the charity of their countrymen.

Whenever we had intelligence from our army, it was marked by defeat and discouragement; so that some, to their shame be it spoken, exclaimed, had not we better submit to any imposition than to be driven from everything we possess? Notwithstanding this town was then esteemed an asylum, yet the sagacity of the Honorable Council, then sitting at this place, induced them to be apprehensive of an attack and prompted them to dispatch advices to the neighboring States for the purpose of procuring assistance.

In consequence of which, General Stark, who was here to complete the edifice of his glory, arriving from New Hampshire at the head of a detachment of the noble and spirited militia of that State, was welcomed to the command. But a special order for him to join the main body at Stillwater gave rise to new apprehensions.

Under these circumstances, intelligence of the enemy's approach was received. If it be proper to judge of futurity by past events, nothing could now be expected but panic, retreating and confusion. But with that magnanimity of soul, which is ever the characteristic of real greatness, those patriots who composed the Council at that

time, deliberately laid the plan which their penetration assured them would be the destruction of the enemy. Having induced General Stark to return, they were indefatigable in adopting such measures as might conduce to the success of the enterprise.

A length of time had now elapsed sufficient for the arrival of a number of respectable militia from the adjacent towns in this State and that of Massachusetts. The exertions of the people in Berkshire County were extraordinary on this occasion and merited them particular honor. In convening, resolution, like electric fire, diffused itself through the whole body of the troops, while bravery marked the countenance, and patriotism glowed in the breast of every individual.

"The wise new prudence from the wise acquire,
"And one brave hero fans another's fire."

Prompted by their apprehensions, the enemy, having made choice of the most advantageous ground, began at this time to entrench. But so determined were our forces, that no circumstance of superiority in number, of perfection of discipline, or of finished entrenchments was sufficient to bring discouragement to their view.

Stark gave the command, the attack was made, the entrenchments stormed, and the enemy defeated. What miracles will resolution and perseverance effect!

That an undisciplined militia, without the assistance of a single field piece, should, in the face of cannon, confront an enemy almost double in number, and drive them from their entrenchments, marks the determination of Americans, and affords an instance of bravery without precedent in history.

Soon after this the enemy, being reinforced, renewed the attack, and from the dictates of despair fought with persevering intrepidity, which in any other circumstances must have been the attainment of their wishes. In this critical moment the arrival of Colonel Warner's regiment, by adding to the spirit of the men as well as to their numbers, completed the victory. Boast then, ye gasconading Britons, that two thousand of your men can effect a march from Saratoga to Springfield, for this action has evinced that a Stark, a Warner and a Herrick, with a number of men little more than half equal to yours, could, by the assistance of heaven, defeat your enterprise upon the first attempt, and make two-thirds of your body prisoners.

But I check this language because gasconade is no mark of bravery. The fame of this action spread through every part of America, and was productive of the most salutary effects in raising the spirits of our army, which was worn out by fatigues and hardships, and in depressing those of the enemy, which for a long time had been

flushed with victory. This battle being a prelude to those fought at Stillwater, which were the immediate harbingers of Burgoyne's resignation, had a powerful operation in effecting that event, which was really the most memorable and glorious that ever graced the annals of America.

Can it be thought possible that the heroism of a few hundred Green Mountain Boys, by being exhibited when the whole country was depressed by retreats and misfortunes, should effect the resignation of a general who commanded ten thousand men, and operate the total dissolution of his army? To the effects of this action must be attributed, in a considerable degree, that series of successes which for the year past has constantly attended our arms, and which has made America so respectable among the nations, that one of the most potent monarchs in the world has not thought it derogatory to court her alliance.

This establishes our independence and must soon put a period to the calamities of war. Are these the effects of the Battle of Bennington? Are these the prospects which attend the Republic of America? Then what laurels are due to Stark and those bold assertors of liberty whose determined resolution and undaunted courage effected the salvation of their country?

But in a speech of this kind it would be impious not to make ascription of the sublimest praise to that God whose kingdom is over all: "Had not the Lord been on our side when men rose up against us, they had swallowed us up quick." The success of that day is not to be attributed to the skill of the officers, and the prowess of the soldiers, but to the interposition of heaven. That Omnipotent Being who has been pleased to style himself the God of Armies, inspired our troops with intrepidity, and directed their charge in such a manner that opposition could produce nothing but carnage and immediate death.

Those heroes who were active that day were the instruments by which our deliverance was effected, but God was the author. To Him, therefore, let the first and most grateful tribute be paid. As the victory was completé, let the song of praise be sincere and universal. It becomes all to unite in this glad work, even those whose nearest friends were numbered with the slain. By yielding themselves a sacrifice to the flagitious exertions of tyranny, they discovered a stability of sentiments in the cause of freedom, and sealed it with their blood. It was a custom among the ancients to canonize those who fell in battle, and to send them immediately to the Elysian fields. This was productive of good effect among the soldiers, as it made them believe that to die in battle was only to

enter upon a more happy state. "It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country," was a maxim which they firmly believed.

In fighting, the death of some is necessary, even on the side of victory; and that individual who would not resign his life for the salvation of his country must be possessed of a soul the most partial and contracted. There is, therefore, no just cause of lamentation to those whose friends were slain, for by their deaths our country was saved. Since that event, the situation of affairs in this Northern department has been very different. The hurry and bustle of war are now succeeded by the sweets of tranquility and retirement. Those who by the savage cruelty of the enemy were driven from their habitations are now returned to a peaceful and flourishing settlement, and instead of those horrors and depredations which are inseparable from all wars, and with which this has been particularly marked, all have now the glorious prospect of a permanent and uninterrupted peace. When this takes place, the necessity of maintaining so numerous an army will cease, our currency will again revert to its proper value, and thousands will resort to this State with designs of making it the place of their residence; all the avenues of commerce will be laid open, and the inestimable blessings of government established. Then, if we may be allowed to put a literal construction upon the enraptured prophecy of Isaiah: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

TITLE PAGE OF POEM.—A POETICAL ESSAY DELIVERED, AT BENNINGTON, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 16TH OF AUGUST, 1777, BY STEPHEN JACOB, 1778; HARTFORD: PRINTED BY WATSON & GOODWIN, MDCCLXXIX.

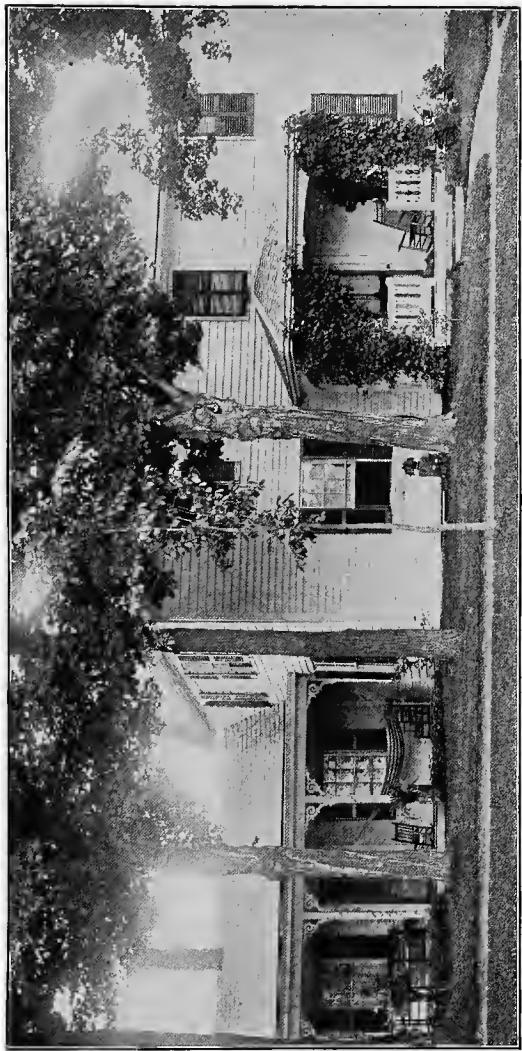
Where blood-bought fame the glowing sage inspires,
Where thirst of glorious death the patriot fires,
Where future scenes in happier prospect rise,
Where griefs are sooth'd and grating discord flies,
Springs the rich theme that wakes the enraptured song
Which claims an audience of the assembled throng.
When angry faction rolling from afar
Burst on our shores, and spread the flame of war,
Rous'd fair Columbia with its dread alarms,
And bid her sons indignant rush to arms,
This infant State, where beasts of midnight howl'd,
Ranged the broad waste and thro' lone deserts prowld,
And this fair town where feline monsters stray'd,
Broke from their dens and on the helpless prey'd,
Their martial offering to their country gave,
To share its victories or a glorious grave,
Up-sprung the heroes from their new abode,

Inspired by freedom and by freedom's God,
 With heaven-born vigor drove the oppressors forth,
 And crop't the-first blown laurels of the North;
 Nor could a tyrant's rage or fetters bind
 The unconquered Allen's more unconquered mind.
 He rose superior to the chills of fear,
 Disdaining threats, defy'd the uplifted spear,
 When shifting victory flushed the adverse fight,
 When war's pale torch display'd a glim'ring light,
 When fear our less'ning band inspired,
 The foe advanced and back our arms retir'd;
 When to this trembling seat our troops were driven,
 Like hosts subdu'd or disapprov'd of heaven,
 That dread Supreme whose thundering terrors roll,
 Dart from the storm and blast the guilty soul,
 Mark'd all our grief from his bright throne above,
 Ey'd our distress and soften'd into love;
 The foe's rash boasting in fierce anger heard,
 Pointed their fate and our cold bosom cheer'd,
 Then from his seat sublime sent Michael forth
 To rouse the ardor of the drooping North.
 In awful grandeur on the dusky storm
 Soon as commanded flew the ethereal form,
 Here in mid-heaven slow hov'ring on the wing,
 Diffus'd the ardor that he came to bring.
 As by the Eternal's conquering breath inspir'd,
 Vigor return'd and zeal each bosom fir'd,
 Swift to the field each blazing warrior flew,
 Each took his post and each his falchion drew,
 Each here glow'd to meet th' insulting foe,
 Resolved to fall or give the conquering blow.
 High o'er the hills th' ethereal seemed to sail,
 And from a cloud suspends the dubious scale,
 Where veil'd in darkness near the opposing foe,
 The signal given, forth rushed the martial train,
 Nor mountains, floods, or hosts their zeal restrain.
 Their shining arms a dazzling pomp display,
 Gleam o'er the vale and brighten on the day;
 The adverse legions eye the trembling light,
 And flushed with conquest, rush amid the fight;
 Our dauntless troops th' impetuous shock sustain,
 Burst through their ranks and multiply their slain;
 Then back recoil like vanquish'd warriors driven,
 Now blaze afresh as reinspir'd by heaven,
 Now on the foe in leaden volleys pour,
 Now back on them the thundering cannon roar;
 Now close engag'd the opposing heroes meet;
 Now fly their hosts and ours again retreat.
 Thus long conceal'd the dubious victims lay,
 Till length'ning shades proclaim'd the setting day,
 When from our sight the angelic form withdrew,
 Up-poised the scale and back their squadrons flew.

Great Stark, a warrior from that day may claim,
 With the brave Herrick, an immortal fame ;
 To many more we'd grateful tributes pay
 Who fought, who conquer'd and who bled that day,
 And those firm souls, that new elected band,
 Which forms your Senate our best thanks demand.
 Their persevering minds 'mid thick alarms,
 Could sway the public and direct its arms,
 And 'midst the din of war and rough debate
 Fix the firm basis of a rising State.
 Yon bright'ning orb, whose beams the nations cheer,
 Has marked one circuit round the varied year
 Since those fair prospects first approached the sight
 Which greets our wond'ring eyes with pleasing light,
 When see fierce discord cease, see treason bleed,
 See war's rough tumult end, and peace succeed.
 Astonish'd strangers eye the new-born State
 Where Chittenden presides in each debate,
 Whose patriot mind no selfish views can charm,
 And whose mild bosom gen'rous passions warm,
 Beneath whose eye see Science stretch her wing,
 Cheer the lone waste and make the desert sing,
 And heaven at last, tho' long it seems to frown,
 On its own sons confer a laurel crown.
 When war's rough genius fired the angry plain,
 Bade orphans weep and parents mourn their slain,
 Bade sorrowing thousands eye the empurpl'd field
 Where slaughter rag'd, in various forms reveal'd,
 Where countless warriors left their parting breath,
 And many a hero swelled the tide of death.
 We make a solemn pause to mourn those dead
 Whose fame shall live till grateful hearts are fled ;
 Who, to defend an injur'd, bleeding land,
 Dar'd bleed themselves at heav'n's severe command.
 We mourn their fall, yet joy they once were here,
 To show their country what they held most dear.
 Heroes thus bravely falling we deplore,
 Yet hail them welcome to th' immortal shore !
 Here blameless envy might with justice cry,
 " Oh ! could I virtuous live, and like them die."
 Each matron, too, with ancient Sparta's dame,
 Whose son for freedom bled, might thus exclaim :
 " For this I birth to that young warrior gave,
 " That he by falling might a country save."
 Yet such rough firmness we but seldom find,
 And tenderness adorns the female mind.
 One sympathetic tear we'd now impart
 To soothe the parent's and the orphan's heart,
 Console the widow and th' afflicted maid,
 Whose dearest bliss beneath the dust is laid.
 For you who wail a tender offspring dead,
 Whose sons for Freedom fought and nobly bled,

You, whose companions met the fatal spear,
We greatly mourn and drop the friendly tear.
For you, fair virgins, who in beauty's bloom
Fade into grief and wear a saddening gloom,
In secret languish and your pains approve,
Melt in distress and mourn your hapless love.
We feel, we feel for you the tenderest pain,
And floods of softness rush through every vein!
But stop! too fast these piercing sorrows roll,
And spread a gloom o'er every feeling soul.
Now led by fancy, burst the films of night,
To future scenes extend the pleasing sight,
Survey the paths your unborn sons shall tread
When you're forgot and theirs, when you are dead,
When Albion's less'n'd host shall disappear,
Her rage grow mild and calm Columbia's fear,
When the fair Olive shall her branch extend,
And long lost Peace again from heaven descend,
When fleets for traffic skim along the tide,
Heave to our shores, or in safe harbors ride,
Where with soft smiling commerce they impart
Th' ensnaring vices of each distant court,
Where pam'r'd lux'ries with malignant breath
Invade our shores and spread a moral death,
Internal sweetness and domestic ease
Here fix their gentle reign and spread the charms of peace.
No tyrant here shall dare erect his throne,
No griping landlord wake th' oppressed's groan,
No cringing minion be for flattery fed,
No menial slave a haughty master dread,
No hateful monster supplicate defense
Who boasts his spoils of artless innocence,
But injur'd virtue sinking in distress
Fly here for safety and obtain redress.
No jarring feuds revive the martial flame,
Or war be known but as a transient name,
No tender matron feel the pangs of fear,
Or melting virgin drop the parting tear,
No mourning consort of her fate complain,
Or lisping infant weep a parent slain,
But gentle friendship spread her balmy wing
While music softens from the trembling string,
Each youth excel in every noble art,
Taste the pure blessings of an honest heart,
Disdain the follies of a vicious age,
And spurn deceit and meanness from the stage,
Nor dare permit the polish'd tongue to speak
What wakes a blush on virtue's modest cheek,
Or yield assistance with malicious joy
To blast the fair and innocence destroy,
But taught by heaven their generous aid extend,
Protect the helpless and the weak defend.

Nor these alone th' enraptur'd tho'ts inspire,
 But fairer charms the glowing bosom fire.
 The heaven-born sweetness and an angel mind,
 With beauty's soft excess to sweetness joined,
 By wisdom taught the just distinction know
 'Twixt worthy merit and the flutt'ring beau,
 They scorn those vulgar arts that fools pursue,
 And stem the tide of custom to be true.
 There conscious virtue holds her gentle reign,
 And knows no fear but that of causing pain.
 To these blest scenes our fondest hopes extend,
 When discord flits and hated factions end,
 Long peaceful years in calm succession roll,
 And love of wisdom animates the whole ;
 Art and refinement wake and spread their charms,
 The youth in letters shine as now in arms,
 When many a fair adorns the polish'd page
 That beams instruction o'er the rising age,
 When warring sexes lay their arts aside
 And take fair virtue for their guiltless guide,
 When worth and grandeur in our bosom shine,
 And age and youth in sacred chorus join,
 Where none shall court the rich unpolished clown,
 On needy merit cast a sneering frown,
 Spurn from their presence the dejected poor,
 Or send the hungry fainting from their door,
 But heaven-born Freedom spread her wide domain,
 And Peace and Justice unmolested reign.
 Cold Poverty shall fly, nor want appear,
 But health and plenty every bosom cheer,
 The blooming mead, the hill and fertile plain
 Yield a rich blessing to th' industrious swain,
 The fatal steel destroy the noxious weed,
 And blushing orchards to their place succeed,
 The trackless waste, the rough, uncultur'd soil,
 And desolation's self be seen to smile.
 Where beasts of prey once found a safe abode
 Rise the fair temples of th' immortal God ;
 Where superstition's zeal obscur'd the day,
 Truth uncontested shine with piercing ray ;
 Where savage ignorance held her midnight reign,
 And bound whole nations in her gloomy chain,
 Unnumbered ages these blest scenes reveal,
 To guide the public and the private weal,
 Point to fair virtue her unbeaten road,
 And mark with censure hated foes to God ;
 Bid Science rise and stretch her bright'ning wand,
 To dash out darkness from this blissful land.
 None of that impious race shall then remain,
 Who bend the gospel to increase their gain,
 Who point to heaven a new and nearer way,
 In unknown paths make erring mortals stray,



THE "OLD SWIFT HOUSE," AT BENNINGTON CENTRE.
Said to have been built in 1763; and, if so, is the oldest house in Vermont.

Avoid Election as a theme too high ;
 Who preach up works, but pass repentance by,
 Leave Faith untaught, or to one sect confin'd,
 And damn the rest as heretics and blind.
 But fair religion warns the hoary sage,
 And lib'ral tho'ts inspire the rising age,
 Pure Gospel truths in full meridian blaze
 To gray hairs, wisdom, and to infants praise.
 Far distant climes the blissful tidings greet,
 Rough, boisterous sects in heavenly union meet,
 Swift gathering crowds in listening clusters throng,
 And hang impatient on the speaker's tongue,
 While th' calm teacher marks the glorious way,
 That leads to mansions of eternal day.

SUBSEQUENT CELEBRATIONS.—The record made of the *formal* celebrations of the anniversaries of Bennington Battle, in the local newspapers, fully justifies the Historical Society's remark as to Independence Day. While it is evident that the greater observances of the day were not wholly continuous, yet that each and every Sixteenth of August received proper notice is evidenced by the testimony of old men, those who, as boys, came with their fathers to Bennington whenever the date arrived. Some recognition of the august event was sure to be made. Another matter will attract attention in connection with this fact. Whenever a formal celebration of the event was proposed, it was Bennington men,—the survivors of the battle, or their descendants,—who took the initiative upon the committees, and were prominent in the subsequent exercises. Nothing is plainer to be read from the records than this statement. While the celebrations were oftener held in this town, yet the people of Shaftsbury, Pownal, Dorset, Sunderland, and Manchester, in Vermont; and Pleasant Valley (Hoosick, bordering upon West Bennington), the Battle Ground, White Creek (the portion near North Bennington, and the battle ground), held celebrations from time to time between the years 1795 and 1841.

Since the "fifties" we find no record, but that of the people of Bennington, celebrating the victory of August 16, 1777. A *resume* of some of the more important celebrations is interesting, as an introduction to those of 1891. They partook of the nature of things agitating the public mind, at the time, after 1810. Before that period the usual escort was "Captain Robinson's cavalry," and "Captain Safford's light infantry." As the years passed away it became,—in the newspaper record,— "General" Robinson; and "Captain" Safford had, also been promoted. The troops commanded by these worthies, actors in the battle, were, later, commanded by new men. When we repeat their names, below,

each will be recognized as one of the prominent citizens of the town ; many of them, also, eminent in early Vermont affairs. Whenever the observances of the day partook of a purely political character, each party seemed to vie which should outdo the other. This led to great assemblies of people, and frequently to a two day's celebration. A detailed history, of these annual affairs, would disclose a most interesting phase of Vermont's people, and, sometime, it should be written.

The ninth anniversary was celebrated at Bennington in 1786. The guns fired at sunrise were *fourteen* ; thirteen for the Original States of the Union and one for the Independent State of Vermont. There was the procession, oration, banquet, toasts, responses, etc., spoken of above ; and a "dance" in the evening completed the day's doings. The emphatically patriotic nature of the exercises is shown by the subject of the oration : "A reflection on the Battle of Bennington, as a prelude to the establishment of our Independence," and the remark follows : "And the train of successes which followed was foremost in every man's mind, diffusing a general joy, and disposed the mind for reflection on the blessings of independence."

The following year another large celebration was held to commemorate the tenth anniversary. The same number of guns were fired at sunrise. The "Order of Procession" gives one an idea of the probable magnitude of the event. People for miles away discontinued business, came to town, and participated. The marshals and aids, if there were any, are not given. Here is the order for the morning :

Captain Robinson's Troop of Horse.
Captain Safford's Light Infantry.

These bodies escorted the procession from the court house (monument site), to the meeting house (Old First Church ; see also illustration of "Monument Avenue"), where orations were delivered by Joshua Hathaway and Anthony Haswell. In the afternoon, at the signal of thirteen guns for the Union, and one for the State of Vermont, a second and more pretentious procession was formed, in the following order :

Captain Robinson's Cavalry.
Captain Safford's Light Infantry.
The Governor and Council.
The Clergy.
General Officers and their Aides.
Field and other Officers and their Aides, of the First Brigade.
Physicians and Surgeons of the Town, and First Brigade.
Judges of the Supreme, and County Courts.
Students of Clio Hall, Rev. Daniel Marsh, Rector.
Other Organizations.

A summary of the oration has been preserved in these words: "This victory, though comparatively small, yet was important in its consequence, being the dawn of light after a long series of disheartening events, and the first fatal check put to British power in America."

In 1789, at Bennington, the day was given up to a sham fight. The military noted as participating were: Captain David Robinson's troop of horse, Captain Safford's light infantry, two companies of Rangers, commanded by Lieutenant Ellsworth, and Lieutenant Eldredge. After the sham battle an oration was delivered by Anthony Haswell in the Old First Church, a banquet was served at the State Arms hotel, and the quaint chronicler of that day closes by saying that "one man was hurt by the chace," referring, no doubt, to the miniature battle. This celebration is called, by another authority, an "Indian performance."

The year 1790 has the first record of anyone outside of Bennington participating in the celebrations — Captain Wright's troop of horse, of Pownal, paraded with Maj. Robinson's command on that occasion.

It would appear that in 1791, by common consent, all Western Vermont celebrated, at Rutland, March 21st, the Admission of the State into the Union, a more particular account of which appears in Division IV., of this "Introduction." At this time [1791] the first orator, Noah Smith, held the office of "Supervisor of Imports"; the first poet, Stephen Jacob, was "United States Attorney in Vermont"; both were present at Rutland.

In 1795 the towns of Manchester, Sunderland, and Dorset, united, at the first named place, in a celebration of Bennington's victory. In the parade were Captain Bradley's "two companies" of light infantry, and the subject of the oration was almost identical, in its wording, with that at Bennington in 1787.

In 1796 the people of Bennington and Pownal participated in a grand "wolf hunt." Full particulars are not given, but toward evening *one* trophy of the chase was duly presented before the assembled spectators, in what is now Monument Park, its skin was stretched to dry; and, at the banquet, which followed, in State Arms hotel, notice was given that this wolf skin was to be utilized for a drum head to use on future "Sixteenths." In 1798 the return visit of Bennington people, to Pownal, was made, the Governor of Vermont going down and making a speech. It is said that "A genteel escort, of Captain Powers's company of horse, was sent to Bennington to wait upon the Governor and party."

The details of these earlier celebrations are exasperatingly

meagre. Those who could have told us of them have long since passed from earth; yet it is not too much to suggest that a people, fired with the enthusiasm evinced, between the lines of the few records that remain, could not let the eighteenth century close without some grander event than anyone of those of the twenty-two years immediately preceding. There seems to have been a spontaneous uprising, in 1799, all along the line, to commemorate the Bennington victory. This enthusiasm was contagious, and we find that Hoosick people, in New York, awoke to the glories of the occasion in 1802.

The celebration at Bennington was held "opposite State Arms." Large numbers of people assembled in other towns as follows, viz.: In Dorset, at the house of Samuel Collins; in Manchester, and in Rupert. At Bennington sixteen toasts were proposed, drunk, and suitable responses made. We remark that the number of toasts, of all the earlier celebrations, ranged in number from fourteen to seventeen; later on, and in this century, the number was increased, often aggregating thirty or forty. Besides, on numerous occasions, *impromptu* sentiments were often called for; and, as given, with the quaint and witty responses, must have added greatly to the zest of these affairs. We quote five examples of regular toasts:

1. "The Day, and the monuments it raised. It was the era of successful operation, and fixed the corner-stone of the fabric of Freedom.

2. "The United States of America. May they never exchange the Eagle for a Crown.

3. "The brave General Stark. May his praises be annually sung, and generations yet unborn hail him as their deliverer.

4. "The brave Officers and Soldiers who fought and freed their country on this memorable day.

5. "The heroes who fell in Bennington Battle, fighting for their country. They died gloriously. Such virtues are recorded in heaven."

Generally, these, or similar sentiments, would be followed by: "The Governor of Vermont"; "The Militia of Vermont"; "Our sister States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts," until the occasions began to partake of the political character mentioned, when each party added such toasts to stereotyped editions, as befitted the campaign in its August stage.

The second "sham fight," as the principal event of the day, was participated in, near the battle ground, in 1802. It attracted people from all the towns surrounding. In 1805 the Committee of Arrangements, for the celebration, at Bennington, were: Ebenezer



MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN STARK.

Portrait made by order of the Legislature of New Hampshire, by U. D. Tenney, from original sketch made by Miss Hannah Crowninshield of Salem, Mass., A.D., 1810, he then being 82 years old.

Walbridge, Ephraim Smith, James Clark, Levi Smith, and Wilbur Blackmer. The following year (1806) the Governor and his Staff were present, and reviewed the militia. Among the toasts we note the following: "The patriots of Hampshire, and Berkshire: they bravely fought and bled with us in '77."

In nearly all the reports preceding that of 1808, mention is made of the *survivors* of the battle. The procession, this year, so the local chronicler says, was graced by a sight not since seen. He says: "Agreeable to previous arrangement, a respectable number of '*silver greys*,' whose age exempted them from military duty, embodied under the direction of Major Eleazer Hawks," and participated in the grand military event. The President of the Day was the Hon. Gideon Olin; Vice-President, Hon. Jonathan Robinson.

It may have been the sight of these "silver greys," and the events leading up to their historic parade, which created such a desire, in 1809, for the presence of General John Stark. The celebration, in 1809, was wholly political, but not out of accord with the General's views, as his letter pertinently shows. It will be noted, in this connection, that the portrait of General Stark, which forms one of the illustrations of this volume, was sketched soon after this characteristic letter was penned. It was read by Anthony Haswell, at a meeting held in the meeting house (the present structure, not the Old First Church of the illustration), the assembly being composed of the "Republican Freemen of Bennington, Shaftsbury, Pownal, and the adjacent towns," and elicited great enthusiasm. General Stark's communication was as follows:

AT MY QUARTERS,

DERRYFIELD, 31st July, 1809.

My Friends, and Fellow Soldiers:—I received yours of the 22nd, instant, containing your fervent expressions of friendship, and your very polite invitation to meet with you, to celebrate the 16th of August, in Bennington.

As you observe, I "can never forget, that" I "commanded American Troops" on that day in Bennington,—They were men that had not learned the art of submission, nor had they been trained to the art of war. But our "astonishing success" taught the enemies of Liberty, that undisciplined freemen are superior to veteran slaves. And I fear we shall have to teach the lesson anew to that perfidious nation.

Nothing could afford me more pleasure than to meet "the Sons of Liberty" on that fortunate spot. But as you justly anticipate, the infirmities of old age will not permit; for I am now four-score and one years old, and the lamp of life is almost spent. I have of late had many such invitations, but was not ready, for there was not oil enough in the lamp.

You say you wish your young men to see me, but you who have

seen me can tell them, that I never was worth much for a show, and certainly cannot be worth their seeing now.

In case of my not being able to attend, you wish my sentiments, — them you shall have as free as the air we breathe. As I was then, I am now — The friend of the equal rights of men, of representative Democracy, of Republicanism, and the Declaration of Independence, the great charter of our National rights: — and of course the friend of the indissoluble union and constitution of the States. I am the enemy of all foreign influence, for all foreign influence is the influence of tyranny. This is the only chosen spot of Liberty, — this is the only Republic on earth.

You well know, gentlemen, that at the time of the event you celebrate, there was a powerful British faction in the country (called Tories), and a material part of the force we had to contend with was [at Bennington, Hoosick] Tories. This faction was rankling in our councils, till they had laid the foundation for the subversion of our liberties. But by good sentinels at our outposts, we were apprised of our danger: and the Sons of Freedom beat the alarm, — and, as at Bennington, "They came, they saw, they conquered." But again the faction has rallied to the charge, and again they have been beaten.

It is my orders now, and will be my last orders to all volunteers, to look well to their sentries; for there is a dangerous British party in this country, lurking in their hiding places, more dangerous than all our foreign enemies. And whenever they shall appear openly, to render the same account of them that was given at Bennington, let them assume what name they will: not doubting that the ladies will be as patriotic, in furnishing every aid, as they were at Bennington in '77, who even dismantled their beds to furnish cords to secure and lead them off.

I shall remember, gentlemen, the respect you, and "the inhabitants of Bennington and its neighborhood," have shewn me, till I go to the country from which no traveller e'er returns. I must soon receive marching orders.

JOHN STARK.

P. S. I will give you my volunteer toast: "Live free or die: Death is not the greatest of evils."

Hon. Gideon Olin, Jonathan Robinson, and David Fay.

In 1810, and, again in 1821, celebrations were held in which the adjacent towns in Vermont, and New York, united with Bennington in exercises on the battle ground. In 1810 it was estimated that three thousand "freemen" came together. In that parade the artillery of Hoosick, and Pittstown, N. Y., had a place. A flag-staff was raised, and "flags floated on the grounds of General Stark's encampment." The record says: "The Battle of Bennington was commemorated, near the field of conquest, by the Republican freemen of the counties adjacent." A description of the principal flag has been preserved: "On one side was represented a descending eagle, bearing in its beak the emblem of Peace. In its clutched talons it held the emblems of War, — indicating a wish for peace,

yet prepared for resistance: On the opposite side, the usual symbolic stars and stripes were displayed; to the right of these was a representation of the Goddess of Liberty, standing in the attitude of solicitation." Seventeen toasts were proposed at the banquet, two of which related to the Bennington battle.

At Arlington, in 1812, the Washington Benevolent Society celebrated the battle anniversary, and an address was delivered by Charles Wright.

In the years 1815, 1816, 1818, and 1819 Bennington celebrated August 16th, formally and alone. In 1818 the second toast was: "General Stark: the Jackson of Walloomsack."

In 1821 two celebrations took place; one in the village of White Creek, N. Y., and the other at West Bennington. The former was much the larger gathering of the two. At White Creek it was announced that the people of the towns of Bennington, Shaftsbury, Pownal, in Vermont; White Creek, Hoosick, Cambridge, and Jackson, in New York, united in the celebration of the "Battle of Bennington, fought on the hills of Walloomsac, the 16th of August, 1777." Captain Henry Robinson and Captain Fort were marshals of a procession numbering over fifteen hundred men in line. Thirteen toasts were drunk, General David Robinson, presiding; assisted by Paul Cornell, and David Fay. The exercises at West Bennington were the associated efforts of people in Bennington and Hoosick, and the list of toasts numbered twenty-three.

In 1822, *East* Bennington, the present village of Bennington (all the above references being to Bennington Centre, *the* Bennington of the Revolution), had the celebration. The banquet was held at the "Inn of Cyrus Hill," which stood on the site of the present office of *The Bennington Banner*. Captain Jacob Safford presided, assisted by Captain John Norton.

The procession of 1823, inaugurated an idea that was superbly revived by the "Green Mountain Boys," with Governor Wm. P. Dillingham at their head, in New York City, at the Washington Centennial three years ago. The people, in the long procession, wore "green boughs in their hats." Colonel Henry Robinson was the marshal; Lieutenant-Colonel Green Blackmer, assistant marshal. The exercises were held on the present monument grounds; the venerable ex-Governor Galusha presided, assisted by Major Hawks, General Robinson, Captain Jacob Safford, Hon. David Fay, Captain John Norton, and William Henry. Also, at Pownal, the same day, a celebration was held, and the late ex-Governor Hiland Hall, then a young man, was the orator. Number seven, of Pownal's toasts, was as follows: "The Vermont, New Hampshire, and Berk-

shire Militia of 1777: Colonel Baum said, 'These d——d Yankees will fight.' ”

The first celebration inaugurated and carried out by the ladies occurred in 1826. Those “to the manner born,” only, participated. The party consisted of *one hundred* young ladies and gentlemen, who took tea together on the banks of the Walloomsac in Bennington.

The fiftieth anniversary, in 1827, was observed with more than ordinary dignity. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, and other demonstrations of rejoicing. The Hon. Hiland Hall, and Hon. Pierpoint Isham were the orators. The exercises were enlivened by original songs, contributed for the occasion, by the Rev. Edwin H. Chapin, D.D., the noted New York divine, who was reared in this town, coming here with his parents, from Greenwich, N. Y., when four years old.

Prior to 1827, and from that time forth, for a number of years, the records preserved speak in almost pathetic language of the survivors of the battle present at these Sixteenth of August celebrations. At Judge Draper's, Shaftsbury, in 1828, there were present two: Ex-Governor Jonas Galusha, and General David Robinson; in 1829, at Bennington, ex-Governors Isaac Tichenor, and Jonas Galusha; at Bennington, in 1831, Captain Brown, a survivor of the Berkshire band, an aged and much respected citizen of Cheshire, Mass., and Captain Safford. Captain Brown is recorded as “One of the Berkshire men who stormed the breastworks of the enemy, and witnessed the victory.” The report continues: “Mr. Brown and Mr. Safford were the only two present who witnessed the events commemorated.”

In 1832 North Bennington and Shaftsbury celebrated. General David Robinson was President of the Day. The procession formed at the former village, marched to the Baptist Church in “West Shaftsbury,” and there listened to an oration. Twenty-four young ladies were robed to represent the States.

In 1840 the Democrats and Whigs held political gatherings in Bennington (Centre). In the banquet line one party had a table spread, to the westward of where the monument stands, said by some to have been seventy-five rods in length. Thousands were fed. The other party, not to be outdone, held theirs the day after the Sixteenth, on the Mt. Anthony Seminary grounds; and we are unable to learn which dispensed the more generous hospitality.

The following year, 1841, a “Temperance mass meeting,” upon the battle ground, called out a vast concourse of people. An eye-witness tells the writer that the procession of teams reached from Bennington to the place of meeting; and that the people came from



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all directions. Many will recall the "Washingtonian Movement," and this occasion, August 16, 1841, must have been one of its red-letter days.

In 1842 occurred the "Ladies' Celebration" at North Bennington. The Hon. A. B. Olin was orator; and, of the thirty-three toasts proposed, three were as follows: (a) "The Grandmothers of the Revolution"; (b) "The Mothers of the Revolution"; (c) "The Green Mountain Band."

In 1848 there was great rejoicing. Through the efforts of Senator Jacob Collamer there had been restored to the custody of Vermont, the cannon captured from the British at Bennington, in 1777. These were present then, and, also in 1891, and are shown in our illustrations just passing under the "Triumphal Arch." On this occasion Samuel Safford was present, "the last *resident* survivor of the battle," and the literary exercises were enlivened by songs sung by Henry Buckley Squires, the world-famed tenor, and native of Bennington, now retired, and living in Paris, France. One of the songs he sang was: "The Death of General Warren."

These reminiscences, closing in 1853, when the monument was first proposed, have not been intended to be exhaustive of the subject, but rather suggestive. There is no claim made as to fixing definitely the dates of all the celebrations. If the reader shall thus obtain an inkling of this interesting subject, and be led up to an intelligent comprehension of the principal subject of this volume, the object of the "historian" will have been fully attained.

DIVISION II.

RESUME OF MONUMENT HISTORY.

FIRST MONUMENT PROPOSALS. — The number "77," and "7," in the history of Bennington, possess allusions that are worthy of reference. The battle was fought in 1777; it was on the 77th anniversary that the promoters, of the first project, contemplated laying the corner-stone; it was in 1877 that the great celebrations were held, which led up to the erection of the present structure, and it was in 1887, that the corner-stone was finally laid; noted hereafter in this work.

The "Act of 1853, Incorporating the first Bennington Battle Monument Association," as will be seen, contained the names of men well-remembered by our people. It will, also, be noticed, by comparison, that several members of the same families were interested in the successful movement of 1876. We are told that the

“bill” met with considerable opposition in the Legislature, but that Bennington promoters of the enterprise were, finally, successful in winning over the opposition to their side. The list of corporators was headed by Governor John S. Robinson, but we have always understood that several Bennington people, not named in the Act, were likewise interested, and among them the late George W. Robinson. The law was Number 124, and reads as follows:

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows:

Section 1. John S. Robinson, A. P. Lyman, Samuel H. Brown, Benjamin F. Fay, E. D. Hubbell, Heman Swift, Peirpoint Isham, William Bigelow, Daniel Roberts, John S. Pettibone, A. L. Miner, E. N. Briggs, George W. Strong, C. B. Harrington, A. W. Hyde, E. D. Barber, Samuel Strong, Paris Fletcher, William Nash, Timothy Follett, N. B. Haswell, D. A. Smalley, William H. French, A. E. Hubbell, I. B. Bowdish, H. E. Royce, A. O. Aldis, O. L. Shafter, W. C. Bradley, C. K. Field, F. Holbrook, I. F. Redfield, J. F. Deane, O. P. Chandler, J. F. Washburn, Daniel Colt, J. P. Kidder, Stephen Thomas, William Mattocks, Henry Stevens, Erastus Fairbanks, William Heywood, Jr., Portus Baxter, Nehemiah Colby, E. P. Walton, F. F. Merrill, C. G. Eastman, Giles Harrington, George W. Bailey, and Paul Dillingham, and their associates and successors, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a suitable monument, commemorative of the achievements of our patriot soldiers at the battle of Bennington, fought on the Sixteenth day of August, A.D. 1777, with all the rights and powers incident to corporations, and said corporation shall be located at the Centre village in Bennington; and may have a common seal, and the same alter at pleasure; may sue and be sued; make such by-laws and regulations as may be necessary, not repugnant to the laws of this State, and may take and hold, by gift, purchase, devise or otherwise, real estate to the amount of two thousand dollars, and personal estate to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, and the same manage and dispose of for the purposes of said corporation.

Section 2. The first meeting of said corporation shall be held without further notice, at Rutland, on the third Wednesday of January, A.D. 1854, at the court house in said town, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at which meeting any five of the corporators shall be a quorum for the transaction of business; and at said meeting, and at all other meetings held agreeable to their by-laws, said corporation may elect all necessary officers, and enact such by-laws and rules as may be expedient.

Section 3. The treasurer of this State is hereby directed to pay to the treasurer of said Association the sum of three thousand dollars, upon receiving satisfactory proof hereafter, that said Asso-

ciation has raised, and is in possession of available funds to the amount of at least seven thousand dollars, to be expended for the erection of such monument, and that said Association has on or before the Sixteenth day of August, A.D. 1854, laid the cornerstone of said monument.

Approved, December 5, 1853.

Agreeable to Section 2, of this Act, a meeting of the corporators was held, at Rutland, January 18, 1854. A large number of Bennington people were in attendance. One of these gentlemen tells the writer that they experienced great disappointment, on arrival in Rutland, because of the want of enthusiasm shown, outside of Bennington. The meeting was called to order by Doctor William Bigelow, of Bennington, and on motion of His Excellency John S. Robinson, he was called to the chair, and Geo. W. Strong, was elected Secretary. On motion, it was

Voted, "That any person, on subscribing ten (\$10.) dollars, shall become a member of the Association."

It was thought that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the funds, called for by the Act, in subscriptions of \$10.00 each. A soliciting committee was appointed, and the organization completed by the election of the following officers :

President, John S. Robinson, Governor ; Vice-Presidents, Hon-orables Samuel P. Strong, Timothy Follett, E. N. Briggs, J. S. Pettibone ; Treasurer, Samuel H. Brown ; Corresponding Secretary, Alfred Robinson ; Recording Secretary, Geo. W. Strong ; Auditor, Uel M. Robinson ; Executive Committee, Wm. Bigelow, Luman Norton, A. B. Gardner, Benj. R. Sears, Perez Harwood, Jr., Daniel Roberts, Geo. W. Strong, Timothy Follett, Erastus Fairbanks. Assistant Treasurers for the Probate Districts : Bennington, J. F. Robinson ; Manchester, John C. Roberts ; Rutland, Geo. W. Strong ; Fairhaven, Merritt Clark ; Addison, Julius A. Beckwith ; New Haven, Geo. W. Grandey ; Chittenden, H. B. Stacy ; Franklin, Geo. F. Houghton ; Grand Isle, — Allen ; Orleans, A. Judson Rowell ; Lamoille, Wm. H. H. Bingham ; Essex, Reuben C. Benton ; Caledonia, Bliss N. Davis ; Washington, Chas. G. Eastman ; Bradford, Justin S. Morrill ; Randolph, Jefferson P. Kidder ; Hartford, James Barrett ; Windsor, Daniel A. Heald ; Westminster, Chas. K. Field ; Marlboro, Asa Keyes. On motion, of John S. Robinson, Samuel H. Blackmer and A. P. Lyman were appointed Locating Committee.

FIRST MONUMENT CELEBRATION. — The enthusiasm manifested at Rutland, in January, evidently increased rather than diminished as the Sixteenth of August, 1854, approached. That the proposal

to build a monument, at this time, was not a success is attributable rather to the inability to do so alone, than to any lack of energy, on the part of Bennington people. The day had not yet arrived.

Wednesday, August 16, 1854, was a great event for Bennington. *The Banner* says: "Nothing of late years has equalled the manner in which the day was observed. The 77th Anniversary of the Battle of Bennington will long be remembered by all who were participants in its festivities. The day was extremely lovely,—the temperature being just what it should be for comfort and enjoyment." The Hon. A. P. Lyman was President of the Day, and the Orator was J. T. Headly, the historian.

The newspaper report says of Mr. Headly: "He gave a vivid and stirring account of the exciting and trying scenes attending the Battle of Bennington, and spoke of the important bearing which this engagement had in securing the Independence of the Colonies. In speaking of the proposition, now in agitation, to erect a monument, in this town, to the memory of those brave men and their heroic deeds, he said, he 'wished it were impossible for the citizens of Vermont to give sleep to their eyes or slumber to their eyelids until they had done their duty in this respect.'" The editor calls this "A gentle hint, which we hope will have the desired effect." The Hon. Hiland Hall, also spoke, and the Hon. Jacob Collamer was present. It was estimated that more than three thousand people, from out of town, participated in the celebration; and the long procession was escorted by the Citizens Corps, of Troy, N. Y. These proceedings and the fact of legislative action proved most helpful when a second attempt was made in 1876.

It is not the purpose of the present effort to give an exhaustive account of the proceedings of 1875-'76-'77, because the particulars of the latter year, are fully contained in the "Centennial Volume," issued in 1879, under the auspices of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, and to which the reader is referred. Our duty seems to be the record of a few connecting links leading past those dates to that of 1891.

The second movement in Bennington, "Was an outcome of the proposition to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the battle, with more than the usual, or even occasional, notice which every anniversary since the battle was fought had received. For several years previous to August 16, 1877, it was common talk among the people of Bennington, ever alive to the importance of General Stark's victory on the fortunes of the Revolutionary war, that the centennial of that victory must be celebrated in a manner worthy of an event of such National importance; and, long before that time



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approached, it was well understood throughout the State that there would be a great celebration at Bennington during the week of August 16th." Various State organizations adjourned to meet here that year, the larger number making their dates "Sixteenth of August week." Among these were the Veteran Soldiers, who held their semi-annual meeting at Brattleboro, in August, 1875; the Officers' Reunion Society, at St. Albans, October 14th, following; the Grand Lodge of Good Templars, in 1876; the Vermont Editors' and Publishers' Association, and several other bodies.

The Bennington Historical Society was organized in 1875, and the call for the first meeting is dated October 28th. At this meeting, when the name to be chosen was under consideration, Colonel Olin Scott proposed to amend the suggested title: "Bennington Historical Society," to the "Bennington Historical and Monumental Society." The amendment did not prevail, but the suggestion of a battle monument, as the outcome, was placed permanently on record. It will be noted that in the "Act of 1876," this Society was given a distinct duty to perform, annually. The Journal of the Vermont House of Representatives, 1876, page 60, shows that the Hon. James K. Batchelder, now a director, moved the reference of "So much of the Governor's Message, as relates to the Bennington Battle Monument Association and the Centennial Year and its Observance," to a special committee. Afterward the committee was increased from seven to nine, and Mr. Batchelder served as chairman. The law passed reads as follows:

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows:

Section 1. Hiland Hall, Horace Fairbanks, W. H. H. Bingham, Justin S. Morrill, E. J. Phelps, Geo. F. Edmunds, Isaac Jennings, Trenor W. Park, John B. Page, Jacob Estey, E. P. Walton, John Gregory Smith, Asahel Peck, John W. Stewart, Abram B. Gardner, Paul Dillingham, Harmon Canfield, Edward Seymour, Burnham Martin, Frederick Billings, Franklin Butler, Jed. P. Ladd, Mason S. Colburn, Edward A. Sowles, Carroll S. Page, E. D. Mason, W. W. Grout, E. P. Colton, Geo. N. Dale, Duane L. Kent, Gilbert A. Davis, Homer Goodhue, Milo C. Huling, J. Henry Guild, Geo. W. Farwell, Oscar E. Butterfield, Cyrus Jennings, E. D. Blodgett, Redfield Proctor, John Lovejoy Mason, Eben Graves, Hiram Barton; and Seth B. Hunt, H. Henry Baxter, and Wm. M. Evarts, of the city of New York; Samuel B. Sanford and Daniel Robinson of Troy, N. Y.; and Sidney B. Squires, of Boston, Massachusetts, with seven persons to be elected annually in January, by the Bennington Historical Society, are hereby constituted, with their associates and successors, a body politic and corporate by the name of the Ben-

nington Battle Monument Association, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a suitable monument commemorative of the achievements of General John Stark and the patriot soldiers of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, at the decisive Battle of Bennington fought on the 16th of August, 1777, with all the rights and powers incident to corporations; and said corporation shall be located at Bennington, and may have a common seal and the same alter at pleasure; may sue and be sued; may make such laws and regulations as may be necessary, not inconsistent with the laws of this State; and may take and hold by gift, purchase, devise, or otherwise, real and personal estate to the amount of \$30,000 and the same manage and dispose of for the purposes of said corporation.

Section 2. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be members *ex officio* of this corporation; and said corporation at their first meeting, or at any annual meeting, may elect by ballot any number of persons not exceeding sixty in all, exclusive of the members *ex officio*, to be members of the corporation.

Section 3. At their first annual meeting said corporation shall elect a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and Board of Directors, and may elect other officers as they shall see fit. The Treasurer shall give bonds in such sum as the directors shall determine, and these may be increased from time to time as they may order.

Section 4. The Governor is hereby directed to invite, in the name of this State, the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts to unite with the State of Vermont in erecting a battle monument at Bennington.

Section 5. No moneys appropriated by the State shall be expended by this Association in the erection of a monument until sufficient funds shall have been accumulated by the Association to complete it.

Section 6. This Association shall at their first annual meeting take measures to secure at Bennington, during the week of the 16th of August, 1877, an appropriate Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Bennington, and also the recognition of the year 1877 as the 100th year of the existence of this State as an Independent State.

Section 7. The auditor of accounts is hereby directed to draw his order on the treasurer of the State in favor of the treasurer of this Association for the sum of \$15,000 upon receiving satisfactory proof that said Association has raised, and is in actual possession of available funds, to the amount of \$5,000, to be expended for the erection of a Battle Monument at Bennington; he is also directed to draw a further order for the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section six, provided the Association shall raise the sum of \$2,000 for this purpose.

Section 8. The first meeting of this corporation shall be held without further notice on the second Wednesday in January, A.D. 1877, at the court house in said town of Bennington, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at which meeting any ten of said corporators shall form a quorum for business.

Section 9. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Under "Section 6," of this Act, a Centennial Commission was appointed. The gentlemen composing it assembled at Bennington, April 4, 1877, and elected officers. The Hon. Edward J. Phelps was chosen President; Hon. Hiland Hall and a number of prominent Vermonters were named as Vice-Presidents; Charles M. Bliss, Secretary; Hon. Henry G. Root, Milo C. Huling, Major A. B. Valentine, George A. Merrill, Carroll S. Page, Executive Committee. An address, "to the People of Vermont," was issued over the signatures of the Executive Committee, who visited the larger towns of the State to promote the object of the proposed celebration. This was followed up by solicitations for money, and the amount necessary was speedily raised. The total cost of the celebration, of 1877, was over \$14,000, and residents of Bennington, as well as Vermonters, generally, gave with a liberal hand, as is shown by the original "subscription paper" before us.

THE RECORD HISTORY.—On the 23rd day of May, 1887, the Building Committee, addressed a letter to the Governors of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont, in these words :

"We, the undersigned members of the Building Committee of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, respectfully represent to your Excellencies that they have been duly authorized to lay before you the present condition of affairs in connection with the building of the Bennington battle monument, and to ask your action thereon. There have been appropriated and raised, for the uses of this Association, the following sums of money, viz. :

"Congress of the United States	\$40,000.
"State of Vermont	15,000.
"State of New Hampshire	5,000.
"State of Massachusetts	10,000.
"Bennington Battle Monument Association	10,000.

"Making a total of\$80,000.

"The plans for the monument have been duly approved, as follows: By the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Vermont, the Governor of New Hampshire, the Governor of Massachusetts, and the Bennington Battle Monument Association. A contract has been duly entered into, between this Association and W. H. Ward, of Lowell, Mass., to build and complete a monument, within three years, for the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars; together with a good and sufficient bond, for the faithful performance of the same, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. Said monument to be erected within a period of three years, on land selected by this Association, which has been secured

to the State of Vermont; together, with all adjoining land within a reasonable distance, in order to preserve, forever, freedom from any objectionable surroundings. We, therefore, ask your Excellencies to give your approval, in writing, to this Association, so far as may be necessary, as to what has been done, as will ensure the payment, into the hands of the Treasurer of the Association, of such moneys as may be needed; or, in compliance with the law, in the carrying out of the contract, for the building and completion of said Bennington Battle Monument."

The approval, on the part of the Directors of the Association, referred to above, is as follows, and bears date at Bennington, January 24, A.D. 1887:

"We, whose names are hereby subscribed, Directors of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, do hereby approve and adopt, on the part of the Board of Directors, the design for a monument heretofore adopted by said Association, at its meeting of August 12, A.D. 1885. (Signed).

Isaac Jennings, Henry G. Root, J. T. Shurtleff, John V. Hall, A. B. Valentine, Ebenezer J. Ormsbee (Governor of Vermont), Oliver Ames (Governor of Massachusetts), Moody Currier (Governor of New Hampshire)."

For the events leading up to the issuance of these important documents, and those subsequent, but prior to the laying of the corner-stone; we condense from "An Abstract of Official Acts and Proceedings, Deposited in MS. in the Corner Stone," written by the Rev. Isaac Jennings, Secretary of the Board of Directors, and President of the Bennington Historical Society. This was the last literary production of the author of "Memorials of a Century," and pastor, for nearly thirty-five years, of the Old First Church; and, on that account, possesses peculiar interest to many. We omit portions, composed principally of names, and routine business, and begin with his account of the first meeting, and organization of the Association:

"In accordance with the Act of Incorporation by the Vermont Legislature, the first meeting of the Bennington Battle Monument Association was held on the second Wednesday in January, A.D. 1877. This meeting made a preliminary organization by the election of W. H. Bingham, of Stowe, Temporary Chairman, and Carroll S. Page, of Hyde Park, Temporary Secretary. On motion of the Hon. Hiland Hall, a committee of five, consisting of Hiland Hall, Charles M. Bliss, J. H. Guild, Isaac Jennings and A. B. Gardner was elected to report to the Association a board of officers for the consideration of the Association. Adjourned until afternoon.



A. B. Valentine

"Met according to adjournment, W. H. H. Bingham in the chair. The Committee on Nomination reported, and the Association thereupon elected the following officers: President, Hon. Horace Fairbanks, of St. Johnsbury; Vice-President, Hon. Hiland Hall, of Bennington; Secretary, Charles M. Bliss, of Bennington; Assistant Secretary, John T. Shurtleff, of Bennington; Treasurer, Milo C. Huling, of North Bennington.

"At subsequent adjourned meetings, by-laws were adopted and other important business transacted, and at an adjourned meeting January 23rd, the following Board of Directors were elected by ballot: A. B. Gardner, A. B. Valentine, Olin Scott, Charles E. Dewey, and A. P. Childs.

"To go on with the history of the Association, year after year annual elections of officers have taken place; annual and special meetings have been held and much important business transacted; but one subject of commanding interest has held its place — that of securing a suitable design for the monument. The Board of Directors met not only in Bennington, but in Boston, Burlington, Concord, N. H., and New York City. Able and distinguished gentlemen have composed the Committee of Design. Leading sculptors and architects have been consulted. Many have furnished designs for the consideration of the Committee of Design and the Board of Directors.

"On December 2, 1884, at a meeting of the Directors, held in New York City, the design of Prof. Weir was, by the Committee of Design, recommended to the Board.

"It may as well, perhaps, be noted here that the Bennington Battle Monument Association had secured the passage in the Legislature of Vermont, in 1880, of an act constituting the Governors of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont members and directors of the Association, *ex officio*."

"The Committee of Design, at this time, was composed as follows: Hon. Edward J. Phelps, L.L.D., Professor of Law in Yale College, and soon after appointed our Minister to England, Chairman; Hon. Alexander H. Rice, L.L.D., ex-Governor of Massachusetts; Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, ex-Governor of New Hampshire and President of the Association. The author of the design adopted, John F. Weir, Professor of Painting and Design in Yale College, was present at the above meeting.

"At the meeting in New York City, December 2, 1884, the report of the Committee of Design was accepted, and a resolution was unanimously passed adopting said design, and also, in accordance with the resolution, every member of the Board, including the

Governors of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, *ex officio* members, gave their individual vote, in writing, and within the time that the meeting was kept open for the purpose, for the Weir design.

"At the ensuing regular annual meeting of the Association, January 14, 1885, the records of the above meeting of the Directors in New York City, and its proceedings, complete, were read by Rev. Isaac Jennings, Secretary of the Directors. And this reading of the said records was understood to be equivalent to the submission, on the part of the Directors, of their action in the premises to the Association for its approval and adoption, or otherwise, as the members of the Association should decide. Owing to the lateness of the hour no vote and no decision, on the subject, was had at this meeting. Public opinion, however, and the controlling feeling of the Association appeared to be,—and proved to be,—in favor not of a monument distinctively sculptural, which was the type of the Weir design, but of an architectural monument of lofty and massive, yet simple, proportions. The strong and beautiful monograph of ex-Governor Hall, which was printed, and copies of it sent to all the members of the Association, in June of this year, in favor of the grand, yet simple, and lofty monument deserves special mention in this connection.

"Here comes in a very important meeting of the Bennington Historical Society, and quite a full abstract, of the substance of the minutes of this meeting, seems to be in place.

"The Bennington Historical Society held a meeting at the court house in Bennington, April 14, 1885. This meeting was, as the minutes state, very largely attended. A preamble and resolutions were adopted appointing a committee of not less than forty members to obtain information, and bring the same before the Monument Association, at its meeting, August 12, 1885, respecting 'a massive structure of commanding height.' The chairman of this committee was the Hon. Hiland Hall. This general committee held a meeting the following Friday, the chairman presiding, and appointed a 'Working Committee' consisting of Chas. M. Bliss, George W. Robinson, Milo C. Huling, John V. Hall, and John T. Shurtleff. Also a Finance Committee: Luther R. Graves, Charles Thatcher, and L. F. Abbott. Subsequently an Advisory Committee was appointed to recommend to the Society one or more designs. The members of this committee were, the Hon. Hiland Hall, Chairman; Prof. Arthur L. Perry, Williams College, Mass.; the Hon. Joseph B. Walker, Concord, N. H. (a great-grandson of the Rev. Timothy Walker of Revolutionary fame); Prof. H. A. P. Torrey, University of Vermont; the Honorables Horace Fairbanks, of St. Johns-

bury, and John W. Stewart (M. C.), of Middlebury. This special committee made their report, under date of July 9, 1885, to the Society 'Strongly and unanimously approving the design presented by J. Philipp Rinn, an artist and architect of Boston.' Also, that the Society 'Take proper and needful measures to insure a full attendance of the Monument Association, on the 12th of August, 1885, in order that the question of design may be definitely settled.'

"Pursuant to the notice a meeting of the Bennington Battle Monument Association was held at the court house in Bennington. A large number of the members were present, including His Excellency, Governor Samuel E. Pingree. The meeting was called to order by Hon. Hiland Hall, Vice-President of the Association, who asked to be excused from serving as chairman on account of the infirmities of age, and nominated His Excellency, Governor Pingree, as the president *pro tempore*. Governor Pingree was unanimously elected and took the chair. The minutes of the annual meeting, held in January, 1885, were read by the Secretary and by vote approved.

"Gen. J. G. McCullough, on behalf of the Board of Directors, withdrew from the consideration of the meeting, the monument design of Prof. Weir, to which the meeting assented.

"Hon. E. P. Walton offered the following resolution; (the words in parenthesis being incorporated on motion of Hon. Wm. M. Evarts of New York):

"*Resolved*, That the design for a structure three hundred feet high, recommended by the Advisory Committee of the Bennington Historical Society, to this Association, be adopted, subject to such modification as the (committee of the) Association (now to be appointed) shall hereafter make and also to such reduction in size (if need be) as will secure the payment of the appropriation from Congress, and from the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, which have already been made.'

The resolution was unanimously adopted. A committee was then appointed, consisting of Chas. M. Bliss, Geo. W. Robinson, Milo C. Huling, John V. Hall, and John T. Shurtleff, to ascertain, among other things, "What evidence of the plan of the monument and its cost, built of stone, will be required by the President of the United States, and by the Governors of Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, to entitle the Association to call for and receive the appropriations," etc. This committee was continued from time to time. At the annual meeting January 12, 1887, this committee, by their own request, was discharged and its powers relegated to the Board of Directors.

"On the ensuing January 13 (1886) the regular annual meeting of the Association was held at the court house in Bennington. The

Committee on Plans and Estimates reported that estimates with bids had been offered by competent and responsible parties to erect the masonry of a monument 300 feet high, according to the plans of Mr. Rinn, but not including the interior work, for the moneys within reach of the Association, provided the State of Massachusetts renew its appropriation.

"At this meeting the subject came up, for consideration, of the *lapse* of the appropriation made by Massachusetts, of \$7,500, on account of delay of the Association to fulfill the conditions of the payment (to it) of the said appropriation, by force of a general statute of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On motion of Charles M. Bliss, resolutions were adopted by the Association, and the Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Bliss, was directed to send copies of the preamble and resolutions to Governor Robinson, and other official members of the Massachusetts Legislature. Mr. Bliss, also, proceeded to Boston to attend personally to this business.

"In March, following, the Massachusetts Legislature renewed the appropriation, enlarging it to ten thousand dollars.

"Also the appropriation by Congress of \$40,000 was delayed for a time by the want of entire satisfaction, that the conditions of it had been met, particularly as to the funds of the Association being sufficient to build the monument according to the design. But at length this difficulty has been successfully overcome."

"From the minutes of a meeting held August 4, 1886, and at length adjourned to August 5th, we quote:

"*Resolved*, That the monument be located in the center of the highway on the crest of the hill, as nearly opposite the site of the Old Continental Store House as practicable."

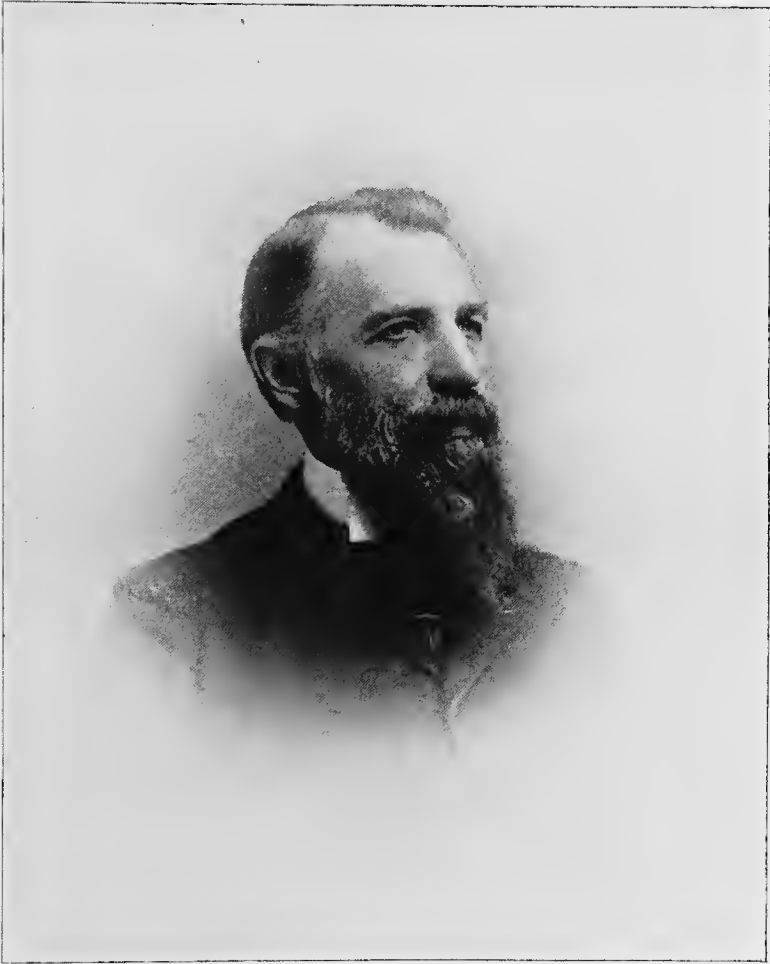
"A meeting of the Directors of the Bennington Battle Monument Association was held in Bennington Centre, April 12, 1887, at the residence of the Rev. Isaac Jennings. The following resolution was moved, by Henry G. Root, and unanimously adopted:

"*Resolved*, That a nominating committee of three be appointed by the chair to nominate a Building Committee, and also a Finance Committee. The Building Committee to consist of three members, to whom shall be referred all subjects relating to the building of the monument, such as design, size of the monument, contracts for stone and labor, employment of engineers and the covering of all moneys now appropriated into the treasury of the Association.

"The Finance Committee to consist of three members to whom all subjects shall be referred relating to the raising of further money.

"Both committees to be subject to the direction and supervision of the Board of Directors."

"In accordance with the above resolution, the President appointed the nominating committee as follows: H. G. Root, A. B.



M. C. Heeling.

Valentine and Charles M. Bliss. The said nominating committee retired, and, after consultation, reported the following names for the aforesaid committees: For the Building Committee, Hon. H. G. Root, Major A. B. Valentine and Milo C. Huling. For the Finance Committee, Charles M. Bliss, John V. Hall and John T. Shurtleff. The report of the nominating committee was accepted, and the gentlemen named elected accordingly. Charles M. Bliss declining to serve General John G. McCullough was substituted in his place.

"At an adjourned meeting of the directors April 26, 1887, among other proceedings, Major A. B. Valentine, on behalf of the Building Committee, presented a form of contract and proposals and a bid for building the monument, received by the committee, from Contractor William H. Ward, of Lowell, Mass." The final outcome was the contract noted above.

"Early in 1886 the 'Working Committee' secured the approval of the design by the President of the United States, and at length, subsequently, the payment of the appropriation, of \$40,000, by Congress was effected. The moneys of the three States were released, on the basis of the contract with Mr. Ward, for a monument 300 feet high. These appropriations, and the \$5000 obtained by private subscriptions for the \$20,000 fund, have been materially increased by other private subscriptions, obtained through the labors of Geo. W. Robinson and others, and it is expected that there will be an additional increase, and a considerable one, through the profitable investment of the funds now in the custody of the Association.

"By an Act approved November 23, 1886, the General Assembly of Vermont appointed John L. Barstow, Levi K. Fuller, Aldace F. Walker, L. H. Thompson, and the President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, commissioners to determine what lands and buildings adjoining the site selected by the Association, for the erection of its monument, are required, in order to secure to the structure freedom from objectionable surroundings; also, in Section 2, the four named persons with Milo C. Huling to agree, if possible, with the owners of said property as to the price, and if unable to agree, to apply to any judge of the Supreme Court for Commissioners of Appraisal.

"Also, in Section 6, authorized the Auditor of Accounts to pay for the property, not to exceed in the aggregate \$10,000; on condition that the Association furnish a guarantee, to the commissioners named in Section 2, that the monument shall be commenced within six months after the site, contemplated in Section 1, is secured to their use, and will be completed within five years thereafter. These provisions and conditions have been complied with.

"Pursuant to a notice sent by the Secretary to all the members of the Board, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bennington Battle Monument Association was held, at the Putnam house in Bennington, June 4, 1887. Among other proceedings, moved and carried that the Board of Directors invite the citizens of Bennington to meet them at Library hall and join them in arrangements for the celebration, of the laying of the corner-stone of the monument, on the 16th of August next. On motion, of Major Valentine, it was

"*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors extend an invitation to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Vermont, to participate in the laying of the corner-stone of the monument.'

"The said resolution and invitation of the Directors were in due form forwarded to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, as aforesaid, and by him presented to the Grand Lodge at a subsequent session held at Burlington; and, on motion, referred to a committee consisting of the four first officers of the Grand Lodge, viz.: Marsh O. Perkins, Alfred A. Hall, George W. Wing, and Delos M. Bacon, who reported the following resolution, which, on motion of the Grand Secretary, was unanimously adopted, viz.:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Vermont feels honored by the invitation, and will gladly accept it and participate in the exercises, under the rules and usages of the Fraternity, and the Grand Secretary is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution, and the action of the Grand Lodge thereon, to the Secretary of the Board of Directors.'

"The official report of the said proceedings, and resolution of the Grand Lodge, were duly forwarded by the Grand Secretary, Lavant M. Read, to the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

"At a meeting of the Board of Directors held, at the Putnam house, June 15, 1887, among other proceedings, on motion of Major Valentine, seconded by the Rev. Isaac Jennings, it was unanimously

"*Resolved*, That the Hon. Benjamin F. Prescott, ex-Governor of New Hampshire, and President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, be invited to act as President of the Day, on the occasion of laying the corner-stone of the monument.'"

DIVISION III.

THE CORNER-STONE, AND THE COPE-STONE.

THE CORNER-STONE CEREMONIES.—August 16, 1887, passed into history as one of the principal events in the long line of occurrences detailed above. The writer, reviewing it at the time, said: "The 16th day of August 1777, 1877, and 1887 marks three impor-



B. F. Purcott,

tant and eventful epochs in the history of Bennington. One hundred and ten years ago the victory won for freedom, and against British oppression, by the patriotic Benningtonians, under Colonel Seth Warner and his allies from Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, all under General John Stark, was most potential in turning the tide of war in favor of the young Republic. The celebration ten years ago, of the Centennial of the Battle of Bennington, was a most memorable occasion. The laying of the corner-stone, of the Battle Monument, to-day, has also been a notable event. The weather was pleasant, and fully 30,000 people were in town as spectators of, or participants in, the celebration."

During this week the annual muster of the Vermont National Guard occurred, and the militia of the State was encamped on the Soldiers' Home grounds (as in 1891), in "Camp Seth Warner," named in honor of the brave commander of the Green Mountain Boys, whom Judge Smith (page 14), awards a meed of praise that adds greatly to his historic renown.

The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, and a volley from Fuller battery. The incoming trains, from all directions, brought crowds of people into town. The Knights Templars in their showy and symbolic dress, the visiting military, the G. A. R., and the Odd Fellows, soon made the streets alive with organized bodies that were to make up the parade in the afternoon. The various delegations were met at the depot and escorted to their respective headquarters, which had been provided at the halls of the organizations to which each belonged. The Governors and their Staffs, and the Grand Lodge Officers, F. & A. M., were the guests of the Association. The visiting military companies, and civic organizations, were the guests of the citizens of Bennington. They were cordially received and hospitably entertained. The evolutions of the Sir Knights, the marching and movements of the 32nd Separate Company of the New York National Guard, the fine appearance of the Berkshire boys (both the Cadets and Canton Colfax), together with what could be witnessed of our own uniformed troops and societies, all these seemed to take up the attention of the assembled thousands, and kept them in good nature, while anticipation was heightened in consequence.

A pleasant feature of the morning was the dedication of the Soldiers' Home, and its formal delivery, by the Board of Trustees, to the State of Vermont. These exercises were attended by the Governors of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and a large number of prominent military guests, as well as by many Veterans.

The procession formed at the junction of Pleasant, Union, and

Main streets at 12.30, P. M., and proceeded to the monument grounds in Bennington Centre, one and one-fourth miles away. The special press report of the time says: "When the lines moved the streets were cleared as if by magic, and the long and imposing column passed in review of the thousands, lining both sides of the streets, until the site of the monument was reached. There was no delay or break anywhere, and the procession was as well seen within a few rods of starting as farther down. It is safe to say that no finer line was ever seen in Vermont. Perhaps there have been larger numbers, at the Centennial in 1877, for instance, but none more imposing and beautiful. The town presented a holiday appearance, nearly every house and place of business on the line of march, and streets upon which the formations were made, being one line of flags and other decorations." The number in the procession was estimated to be 2500. At the head of the line rode Colonel George W. Hooker, Chief Marshal, and mounted staff of fifty; then came the First Brigade, V. N. G., commanded by Brigadier-General Wm. L. Greenleaf; the Grand Army of the Republic, escorting the Bennington Battle Monument Association, and guests, in carriages; the visiting militia; the civic societies, including the Sons of Veterans, and Patriarchs Militant; the Masonic Division, and Fuller Battery in the rear. The Masonic Fraternity formed according to the Ritual, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars being the escort to the Grand Lodge.

As Fuller Battery reached Monument Avenue, in Bennington Centre, it dashed rapidly up to the site of the Old Continental Store House where it unlimbered and fired a salute of thirteen guns. This announced the formal opening of the corner-stone exercises. Seated on the speakers' platform, around the monument, were ex-Governor B. F. Prescott, of New Hampshire, President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association; Governor Oliver Ames, of Massachusetts; Governor C. H. Sawyer, of New Hampshire; and Governor E. J. Ormsbee, Senator Geo. F. Edmunds, Congressman John W. Stewart, Orator of the Day, and Congressman William W. Grout, of Vermont. A second stand was occupied by the Staffs of the three Governors, and by such well known Vermonters as ex-Governor Horace Fairbanks, ex-Governor Samuel E. Pingree, ex-Governor John L. Barstow, ex-Governor Frederick Holbrook, Colonel B. B. Smalley, General Wm. Wells, Judge H. H. Powers, Judge J. W. Rowell, Colonel Franklin Fairbanks, State Treasurer DuBois, Secretary of State Porter, Secretary of Finance Page, General P. P. Pitkin, Colonel John C. Stearns, Hon. James K. Batchelder, General T. S. Peck, General William H. Gilmore, Colonel Albert



Genl. K. Fuller

Clarke, Colonel F. S. Stranahan, Colonel William A. Crombie, Colonel D. K. Hall, Colonel Z. M. Mansur, Colonel R. E. Hathorn, Colonel De May, Interstate Commissioner A. F. Walker, Honorables Warren Gibbs, Daniel Roberts, B. D. Harris, General H. K. Ide, and Colonel T. C. Fletcher. Upon this stand were, also, seated the members of the Monument Association's Board of Directors, the Building and Special Committees.

The platform occupied by the Grand Lodge, and Grand Commandery, was situated South of the corner-stone. The dimensions of the stone were: seven feet long, three feet wide, and two feet and eight inches deep; weight about five tons. The Grand Secretary's record of deposit is as follows:

"'Holy Bible'; Governor Hall's 'Early History of Vermont'; Rev. Isaac Jennings's 'Memorials of a Century'; Rev. Isaac Jennings's 'Historical Account Relating to the Battle Monument in MS.'; Manuscript copy of the Contract for the Erection of the Monument; 'Biographical Encyclopædia, 19th Century,' Vermont; Copies of *The Bennington Banner* newspaper, containing cut and description of the monument and a Record History; Copies of *The Bennington Reformer* newspaper; other Vermont newspapers; Troy, and New York City newspapers; Printed Laws Referring to Monument; 'Battle of Bennington, and Vermont Centennial'; Forbes's 'Vermont Centennial'; 'History of Vermont Odd Fellowship'; Report of Masonic Grand Lodge, Vermont, 1887; Official Programme of Laying Corner-Stone, August 16, 1887; Masonic Ceremonies, Laying Corner-Stone, Vermont; Bennington Centennial Memorial Medal; Bank Notes of the Banks in Bennington; Copper Coins; Brigade Order and Roster; Regimental Order from Adjutant General's Office, for Muster of 1887."

The exercises consisted of introductory remarks by ex-Governor Prescott, President of the Day; response by the Grand Master, accepting the task of laying the corner-stone, and the stone was then laid in "Ancient Masonic Form," the following officers participating:

M.: W.: Alfred A. Hall, Grand Master; R.: W.: George W. Wing, Deputy Grand Master; R.: W.: Delos M. Bacon, Grand Senior Warden; R.: W.: John H. Whipple, Grand Junior Warden; R.: W.: Chas. W. Whitcomb, Grand Treasurer; R.: W.: Lavant M. Read, Grand Secretary; W.: Warren G. Reynolds, Assistant Grand Secretary; W.: Wm. J. Sperry, Grand Senior Deacon; W.: Rigney D. Marvin, Grand Junior Deacon; W.: M. Willson Johnson, Grand Lecturer; W.: Rev. Edwin Wheelock, Grand Chaplain; W.: Rev. Frederick S. Fisher, Assistant Grand Chaplain; W.: Harley G. Sheldon, Grand Marshal; W.: Thomas S. Miller, Deputy Grand Marshal; W.: Halsey H. Adams, Grand Pursnivant; W.: Eugene S. Leonard, Grand Sword-Bearer; W.: Daniel C. Barber, W.: Asaph T. Taft, Grand Stewards; W.: Lafayette Soper, Grand Tyler; Bro.: J. Ph. Rinn, Principal Architect; Bro.: Olin Scott, Deputy Architect and Inspector.

The address of the Grand Master was followed by the acceptance of the "work" by Governor Ormsbee; and, also, on behalf of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, by its President, the President of the Day, who then presented the Orator, Hon. John W. Stewart. The ceremonies were enlivened by appropriate music, and the Ritual hymns were sung by a double male quartette.

HON. JOHN W. STEWART'S ORATION.—One hundred and ten years ago, this hour, a little band of hardy pioneers, our fathers, kindred and countrymen were very busy on yonder hill-side clearing the track for the on-coming of the great Republic. They were men of action; and the time for action had come. Petition for redress, remonstrance against wrong, protest, argument, expostulation, had all been tried and had failed, and the question between the Colonies and the Mother Country had come to the dread arbitrament of war; and on that fateful day England sent her Hessian hirelings, with their Tory and savage allies to lay waste and pillage the peaceful homes which patient thrift had made in this beautiful valley. The brave pioneers met them on the border, nor did they await attack. Their defence was in attack, and all that long day they confronted the disciplined invaders, and they fought as brave men fight for home and family and country, while in many a home within rifle-shot of where we stand gathered the mothers, sisters, wives and children of the defenders, awaiting with beating and anxious hearts the issue of the battle and news of the loved ones who were braving its perils. Who can describe the awful suspense of that day to these families as they listened to the distant roar of the deadly guns? But the night draws on, and the day is won, and so becomes one of the most memorable in American history.

We gather on this anniversary day to lay the corner-stone of a monument which shall fitly commemorate this great event, known in our history as the Battle of Bennington.

Suffer me to congratulate the officers and members of the Monument Association to whose indefatigable efforts such success is due that to-day witnesses the initial ceremony which is the sure prelude of the final dedication, soon to follow, of a completed memorial which shall fully realize the patriotic hope so long deferred.

When or by whom the project of erecting a monument, commemorative of this battle, was first definitely proposed, I do not know. No doubt many a reader of early American history, as he has dwelt upon this, one of its most striking and dramatic events, has thought that it deserved a worthy memorial. It is enough, however, for this occasion to say that the project first took organized form and action under the charter granted by our Legislature in 1876. Among the active managers of the Associations, since its organization under the charter, may be found the names of several of the Governors of this State, of the State of New Hampshire and of the State of Massachusetts.

Notwithstanding the fact that ten years have elapsed since the Association was organized, I yet venture to congratulate its officers upon the expedition made and the early success which has crowned their efforts. All experience in these matters has shown that, save

when undertaken and carried forward by the government, indefinite time is required. In December, 1799, both houses of Congress adopted a resolution for the erection of a monument to commemorate the great events of the military and political life of Washington, and yet the corner-stone was not laid until 1848, and it was not completed until 1885 and never would have been had not Congress in the Centennial year, 1876, resolved, "In the name of the people of the United States to assume and direct the completion of the Washington monument in the City of Washington."

Since its organization, the Association and its friends have been unremitting in their efforts to raise necessary funds, secure a proper design and mature plans for the earliest practicable accomplishment of the patriotic end in view, to wit.: the erection of an imposing memorial structure at Bennington. As it was by the united and voluntary action of the yeomanry of the Colonies of New Hampshire and Massachusetts and the then Independent State of Vermont that the eventful victory we celebrate was won, so it seemed eminently proper that these States should, severally, unite in making contribution to the erection of such memorial. Accordingly the subject was presented to the Legislatures of those States, respectively, and met from each a prompt and generous response. This State contributed the larger sum, \$15,000, and properly so, considering the question of the locality of the event and of its proposed memorial. Massachusetts contributed \$7,500 [increased to \$10,000, March 29, 1886], and New Hampshire \$5,000. The aggregate of the sums was increased by private subscriptions from all parts of the country to the sum of \$40,000. The 46th Congress of the United States supplemented this sum by appropriating an equal amount, which has been paid into the treasury of the Association and is now available for its purposes. The total amount thus raised and pledged is \$80,000. This State has recently, in 1886, made a further appropriation of \$10,000 for the purchase of a suitable site and grounds for the monument. It need not be supposed that so much has been accomplished without much patient and persistent effort on the part of those charged with the duty of raising funds. The usual hindrances and delays which beset such schemes have been met and successfully overcome. No little delay and perplexity have been occasioned by differences of opinion as to the proper design for the monument—in such cases never a subject upon which views easily meet. Artists and *connoisseurs* often differ widely as to the fitness of a given design. One declares in favor of an elaborate and mystic symbolism, unintelligible to the common mind without a key. Another prefers a design distinguished by mere beauty of form, delicacy of outline and dainty artistic conception and finish; while perhaps a third, underrating or insensible to the charm of beautiful form and graceful outline, would prefer a shapeless boulder symbolizing nothing save endurance. From the number of designs submitted by different artists, the Association selected after careful deliberation the one made by Mr. J. Ph. Rinn of Boston. It is believed that this design meets every required demand. Its realized embodiment, standing upon solid rock, will rise, graceful in outline, massive and majestic in proportion, to the imposing height of 300

feet; its summit commanding a view of the scenes so memorable. So standing, it will commend itself to the eye and judgment of future beholders as a fitting memorial and symbol, both of the great event it is designed to commemorate and the grand and heroic character of men whose valor on that August day, so long ago, made possible the two victories at Stillwater and the surrender at Saratoga in the succeeding October. And this brings me to notice very briefly the historical significance of the Battle of Bennington and the bearing it had, directly, upon the fate of Burgoyne's expedition; and, more remotely, though not less certainly, upon the result of the then pending struggle between the Colonies and the Mother Country. I am not unaware that this is a well-worn theme. The story of the battle, in which so many of the citizens of this county took part, is as familiar as a household word. Indeed "Bennington Battle" are to them household words.

The story has been oft-told by sire to son, and grandsire to wondering grand-children gathered at his knee. It was from these homes about us that so many went out to meet and stay the invader. It is in many of these peaceful homes that their kindred and descendants now live. Here, too, annually, as the years since 1777 have flown, the dwellers in this region have gathered and by appropriate ceremonies observed the anniversary of victory and deliverance.

It has been to them almost as sacred as the annual Feast of the Passover to the Jews. At each recurring anniversary the story has been rehearsed anew. It has been a theme fruitful of impassioned oratory and an inspiration to the poet, and it has been embalmed by the historian. What can I say more, or other, or better, than that which has been spoken and written by your own, nay, *our* own, honored citizen, the late Governor Hall, whose interest in, and whose knowledge of, the early history of this region was unmatched? We miss, indeed, his venerable and benignant presence here to-day, a day which more than any other he longed to see; and yet the impress and impulse and inspiration of his spirit has been felt at every step in the past progress of this Association, and abides with us to-day.

I recall, also, the wise caution as to brevity in the invitation extended to me by your committee, but the occasion seems to demand, within the prescribed limits, a brief sketch of the situation just prior to the battle and notice of the effect of the victory, both direct and remote.

The summer of 1777 was a season of gloom and depression in the American Colonies. They were scattered, incoherent and without funds and appliances adequate to cope successfully with the rich and powerful Mother Country. The Tories were exultant. The timid were halting between the two. The leaders were despondent. Burgoyne's formidable expedition, planned in London for the purpose of cutting off New England from the other Colonies, was making its apparently resistless way southward to its goal. On the 6th of July he captured Ticonderoga, and on the next day he struck and routed at Hubbardton the rear guard of our retreating army. At this critical moment, when Burgoyne's success seemed



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Olin Scott

most assured, the Council of Safety, then the Provisional Government of Vermont, appealed to Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, for aid in repelling the invasion of the western border thus left open and defenceless.

Right nobly did these Colonies respond to the call, and "Ho, to the Borders" rang through the hills of New Hampshire, and was echoed along the valleys of Berkshire and Worcester. John Stark with his stalwart men from the granite hills came marching across the mountains, and Colonel Simonds rallied the men of Berkshire, among whom was the maternal grandfather of the speaker; and Warner and Herrick and Williams and Brush came also with their Vermonters, among them the paternal grandfather of the speaker.

General Stark with his brigade reached Bennington on the 9th of August. It was on the 15th of the previous month that the Vermont Council of Safety had addressed the Executives of Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and thus promptly had New Hampshire responded. General Stark had already earned reputation as Colonel at Bunker Hill and under Washington at Trenton and Princeton, and was a man of great force and courage. His instructions from the President of New Hampshire upon setting out on this expedition curiously illustrates the *quasi* independence of the Colonies at that time. They were "To repair to Charlestown No. 4," and, when the troops were collected there, "to take command of them and march into the State of Vermont and there act in conjunction with the troops of that State, or any other of the States, or of the United States, or separately, as it should appear expedient to him for the protection of the people, or the annoyance of the enemy." Never was discretionary power more wisely bestowed. The result justified the confidence reposed in General Stark, although the order was criticised severely as subversive of military discipline. Burgoyne had at this time reached the Hudson River, his progress having been retarded by natural obstacles, and obstructions interposed by the scattering force of Americans which hung along his flank and front in the wilderness through which he marched. He at this time needed supplies and means of transportation, and his object in detaching Baum and sending him to Bennington was to capture the stores there gathered in considerable quantities for the use of General Schuyler's army. But the hastily rallied pioneers were there before him; and, my fellow-citizens, never was there a more grand, spontaneous uprising of a brave, noble race of men in defence of a holy cause—home, country, freedom, everything which makes life dear or worth living.

On August 14th, Baum had reached a point about six miles from Bennington and had captured a large quantity of wheat and flour at Sancoik mill. From here he wrote a dispatch to Burgoyne, that about 1800 militia were in his front, which would leave at his approach; of which another has wittily said: "They did leave, but took Baum's whole army along with them." On the night of the 14th Baum entrenched his army in a strong position. On the 15th it rained. On the 16th Stark attacked the entrenched and disciplined troops on all sides. They made a brave defence, but were nearly all killed, or taken prisoners. Immediately after the battle

was over, Colonel Breyman, sent to reinforce Baum with five or six hundred men, was observed approaching, with whom a second battle was fought, continuing until sunset, when the enemy fled, leaving his artillery and escaping in the darkness. About 700 of the enemy were captured and 207 men killed.

Governor Hall, in his "Early History of Vermont," says: "The injury to the enemy by this disaster can scarcely be overstated. It was not confined to his actual losses of men and munitions of war, though these were of considerable importance. This victory was the first check given to the triumphant march of Burgoyne from Canada, and was an unexpected example of a successful assault by undisciplined militia, armed with muskets, without bayonets, upon an entrenched camp of veteran troops defended by cannon." In a private letter to the British minister in London, written four days after the battle, Burgoyne says, "Had I succeeded I should have effected a junction with St. Leger, and been now before Albany." In the same letter he pays his respects to the people of Vermont in the following words: "The New Hampshire Grants in particular, a country unpeopled in the last war, now abounds in the most active and most rebellious of the continent, and hangs like a gathering storm on my left." We can hardly overestimate the effect of this victory upon the then desperate cause of the Colonies. Such effective fighting by raw militia against entrenched veterans astounded and disheartened the enemy. The news flew over the land, and thrilled all hearts with joy, renewed flagging hope, inspired fresh confidence in the prowess of our army and in our ultimate triumph. Says General Hawley in his report to the House of Representatives of the 46th Congress, recommending the appropriation already mentioned: "This brilliant victory, of New England yeomen over disciplined forces, aroused every section of the country to renewed effort, reinforced the Northern army by the thousands, and thus ensured the success of the Saratoga battles, resulting in the capitulation of Burgoyne and his whole army. Consequent on this was the French Alliance, the importance of which to the final result is a matter of history. To the Bennington battle, then, one of the most brilliant in the annals of the war of the Revolution must be, therefore, largely accorded the achievement of the independence of America." It is curious to notice how necessary to this grand result seems each successive link in this chain of cause and effect.

If Baum had taken the needed supplies to Burgoyne's army, its triumphant march to Albany would have been speedy and certain. The recruits to our army, then needed for effectual resistance to Burgoyne's advance, would have staid at home. The French Alliance, without which the achievement of independence would have been impossible in the face of such disaster and general discouragement, would not have been effected. But this is not a time for speculation or conjecture. Our fathers *did* rally and stand here, like a wall of consuming fire, against the invading host, and their rally and battle and victory will forever stand in American history as one of the most dramatic and eventful episodes recorded on its pages.

Probably few, if any, of those engaged in the battle began to measure the momentous consequences which hung upon its issue. It seemed to them simply a struggle for the capture or retention of a quantity of supplies, and so far important, but the far-reaching consequences of the result could not then be foreseen. Our fathers "Built better than they knew." We estimate the value of their service in the light of subsequent events. But their want of foreknowledge does not detract in the slightest degree from the moral quality of their action. That lies in their ready, unselfish loyalty to a perilous duty, and their prompt response to its call at the risk of life itself.

No race of men ever trod this planet who more than they revered and respected rightful authority divine and human, and it was the rightness and righteous exercise of authority which commanded their respect and allegiance. Its abuse they knew was outside the functions of government, and therefore intolerable.

The committee of the Convention at Westminster, in 1777, enunciate the principle thus: "Whenever protection was withheld by a government no allegiance was due or could of right be demanded." The pioneers, in this region, were not unwilling to submit to the Colonial jurisdiction of New York, but could not and never would suffer unjust evictions of lands granted by an officer of the Crown, and redeemed to uses of civilization by years of patient toil and hardship.

In common with other colonists, they would have remained in willing allegiance to the English government had the latter respected and secured to them those natural rights which are the gift of God and not of governments.

These men saw clearly the true functions of government, and so gave new meaning to the term patriotism. Love of country is instinctive and universal, and men have died for country in every age, but in every age until the English Revolution, government and country have been convertible terms, and human history is not a history of the people, but almost to our time a continuous record of the follies and crimes and oppressions committed by kings and princes and nobles.

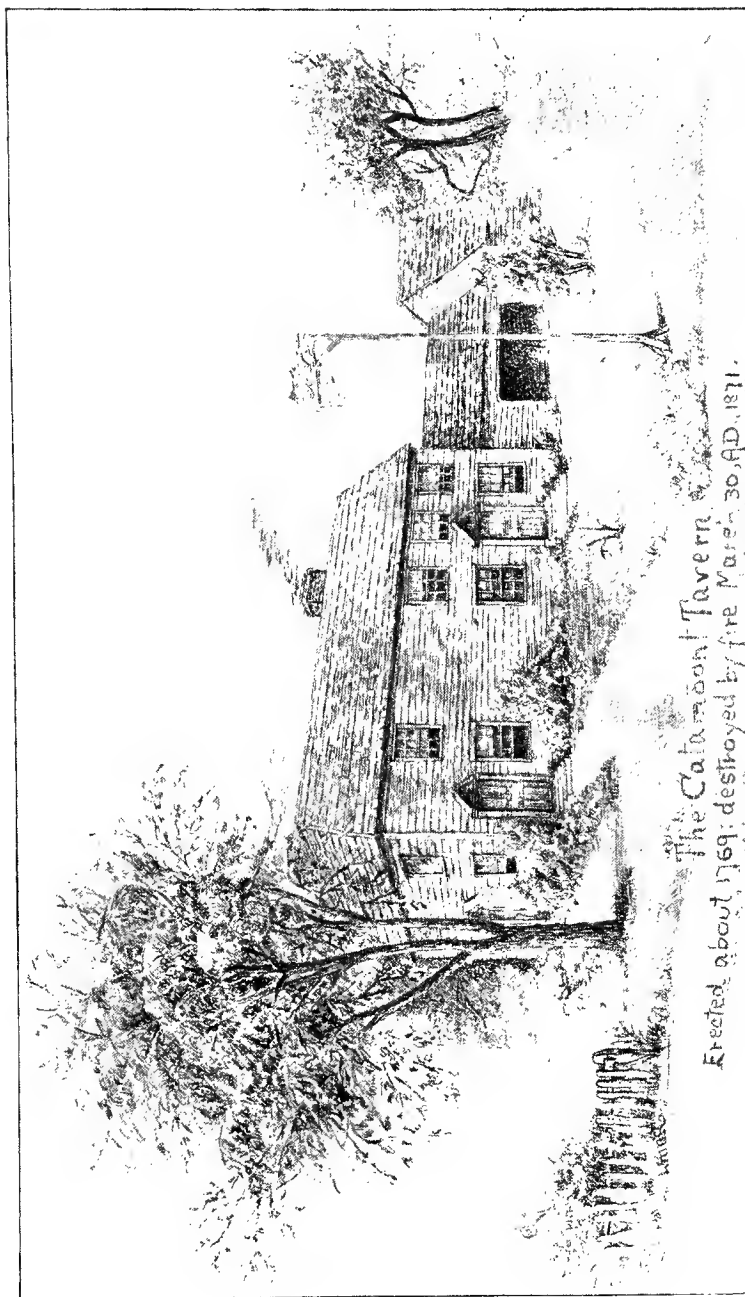
The Great Teacher and Saviour of the race declared the rights and dignity of the individual man, as man, nineteen centuries ago; but the grand truth was never recognized and formulated by any civil government, until, more than 1200 years later, the great charter of English liberty was wrung from a reluctant king. For centuries afterward it was practically disregarded, but the seed sown in men's hearts slowly germinated and grew and became the tree of liberty under which our fathers gathered, and which they watered with their blood.

Did time serve I might dwell upon the personal characteristics of the men who then dwelt in this region — of their manly fortitude in time of trial, of the wisdom and moderation which marked their deliberations, of the courage with which they confronted all adversaries, of their respect for rightful authority, and their hatred of its abuse. I might tell how they braved the dangers of the frontier forest and subdued it to the uses of advancing civilization, whose

banner they bore; how civil order prevailed among them while yet there was no organized power, legislative, executive or judicial, by which those functions could be exercised, and yet such was the self-governing capacity of these pioneers, for the most part plain farmers, that under the most trying emergencies, and without any of the ordinary appliances which pertain to government, in the maintenance of private rights and public rights and public order, they held both secure, and at the same time without stint gave of their scanty means, and offered themselves a ready sacrifice in support of the common cause, of all which Ticonderoga, Hubbardton, Bennington, and Saratoga will stand as witnesses forever.

They were no carpet knights, nor plumed cavaliers playing fantastic tricks of knight errantry. They were grim fighters, and they fought in their every-day clothes; but as they stood on that long summer day in deadly conflict with the hirelings of a half-demented king, who madly flung away the brightest jewel in his crown, every brave heart 'neath the yeoman's jacket beat with the loftiest inspiration of a courage born of faith in God, and in his eternal principles of justice, and in deathless devotion to country. Every patriot bullet was winged and instinct with this inspiration. While love of country flamed in their hearts, that word country, meant far more to them than it did to the Greeks at Marathon. To them country stood for the people, secure in all natural rights and all the social and civil free institutions essential to their preservation. They scorned kingly and priestly and lordly and every form of class privilege and prerogative. They were living epistles of a new faith. They were yeomen, they were warriors, they were statesmen. They were fit founders of a new system of government, so well epitomized by the immortal Lincoln as a "Government of the people, for the people, by the people." In this faith they lived, and for its triumphant establishment they fought, and conquered on yonder hillside. The honor of their grand achievement is the glorious inheritance of the three New England States represented here to-day, from whose valleys and hillsides their patriotic sons, leaving wife and child and quiet home and peaceful pursuits, so swiftly rallied at the call of country. The fruits of their victory are the common heritage of the whole country for all time to come. Their heroic example is for mankind. The law of the conservation of force prevails in the moral as in the physical world. Nothing is lost. The heroic life or heroic death in a just cause, though apparently hopeless, will some time bear rich harvest in reconversion into successful heroic action inspired by example. Such was the event and such the character of the actors therein, in reverent memory of which we are met on this anniversary day to perform this initial ceremony. We begin now the erection of a majestic and enduring memorial which shall in some degree symbolize our conception of an event so fraught with great results, and wrought, too, by an ancestry whose heroic character and achievement must forever challenge our admiration and gratitude.

Let it rise majestic here, girt by these grand mountains, commanding views of unmatched natural beauty, and overlooking the graves of the heroic dead. And so may it stand a mute but eloquent



witness and memorial to all coming generations of the Battle of Bennington, and of the valor and virtue of the men who crowned the day, whose anniversary we celebrate, with glorious victory.

The Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Isaac Jennings, his last public act, and the procession returned to the place of starting, where it was dismissed.

THE COPE-STONE. — The cope-stone, completing the masonry of the monument was laid Monday, November 25, 1889, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The *impromptu* exercises closed with the singing of the Doxology, by thirty voices at the top of the structure. During the cementing process several of those present threw under the stone half and quarter-dollars and other coins.

DIVISION IV.

THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF VERMONT.

THE STORY OF VERMONT'S SETTLEMENT, AND ADMISSION TO THE UNION. — The dual nature of the celebration of 1891, leads the Editor of this volume to admit to these introductory pages an article, in explanation thereof, from the pen of Professor Charles S. Davis, written originally for the *Centennial Banner*, but, by request, revised especially for this work. It forms a fitting conclusion to the historic account prefatory to the celebration of August 19, 1891, as follows:

Vermont, unlike any other New England State, was once an independent commonwealth. The original thirteen Colonies never had a separate, independent existence. Each was founded as a ward or dependency of some European power and held that relation until the Colonies unitedly declared themselves free and independent, in 1776, and as one body proceeded to throw off the dominion of Great Britain.

None of them ever made serious claim to a free and independent existence. In that respect Vermont differs from them all. For fourteen years she was held by her citizens to be as free from other governmental connection as any monarchy of the old world. She was not a dependency of Great Britain. She was in no political way bound to her sister states, but during the period named, she was to all intents and purposes an independent nation.

Her early history may be divided into two periods: that of *settlement*, extending from near 1700 to her organization as an Independent State in 1777, and that of her *independence*, covering the period from January 17, 1777, to her admission into the Fed-

eral Union, March 4, 1791. The territory of the present State of Vermont was settled principally by people from Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. As early as 1749 a grant of a part of this territory was secured from New Hampshire, to which the present State belonged, by cession of the English king, made to the Council of Plymouth as early as 1620. These claims were mostly obtained by the original Green Mountain settlers under the title of the New Hampshire Grants, and by this name the region continued to be known until after the breaking out of the Revolutionary War. These settlers were a race of sturdy, aggressive, liberty-loving people who came to find a home in the wild forests of "the Grants," much as their Pilgrim progenitors had come from England to find a home in the more eastern wilds, nearly two hundred years before. A deep and abiding principle with these early settlers was the fixed belief in the total separation of Church and State. They were practically Separatists who would not tolerate the laws of Massachusetts, and other Colonies, which forced certain religious beliefs and practices upon an entire community. One of their first acts in their new home was to write upon their church records their unqualified belief in proper religious liberty, and to repudiate the doctrine of State interference in matters pertaining to the Church, and when, on the third of December in 1762, they organized "The First Church of Christ in Bennington," the first church organized in "the Grants," it was voted to exclude from their platform everything that recognized the right to use the civil law to support the gospel.

These settlers were farmers, aggressive and self-reliant, not scholarly as scholarship is counted by the schools, but having that large degree of practical knowledge in civil affairs which schools and books do not furnish. They had the Bible and they were a people mighty in their Scriptural faith, and their belief in religious liberty allowed them to discuss and weigh its metaphysical bearings with a skill and freedom that made them trained debaters, and prepared them for the skillful exercise of their talents in the little town democracies which some one has called the training schools of popular self-government. The early settlers on "the Grants," were indeed well suited to the turbulent times in which they lived and for the struggle that lay before them, first in behalf of their own rights against the claims of New York, and, later, in defence of Colonial rights against the claims of the English King. It is safe to say that no people ever managed the affairs of peace or war more wisely or more courageously than they; that none were ever more patriotic, self-sacrificing and earnest in their defence of a common

cause, and that none ever showed keener political sagacity than the men who not only maintained their rights on "the Grants," but eventually made their settlement a sovereign state and maintained its independence against the world for a period of fourteen years, and exchanged that position only when they could secure another more desirable,—admission to the Union.

The independence of Vermont grew out of a so-called rebellion of the settlers on the New Hampshire Grants. It came about in this way: The territorial limits of the present Vermont were originally within the jurisdiction of New Hampshire. Under titles gained from that Colony, the people obtained and held their lands and made their homes. The Colony of New York, to the west, was separated from these "Grants" by a line running from the North-west corner of Massachusetts to the head of Lake Champlain. Without notice to the settlers this boundary line was moved eastward, by the English King in July, 1764, to the west bank of the Connecticut river, thus bringing all the people on the New Hampshire Grants into the Colony of New York. This might have prevailed had not these hardy settlers been informed by New York that they must now acquire new titles to their property, and pay that Province for them.

Surveyors were sent to lay out the lands anew, and officers of the law came from Albany to dispossess the hardy mountaineers of their homes. It was then that the people on "the Grants" decided upon rebellion and the application of the principle that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God. The resistance began in Bennington when Sheriff Ten Eyck and several hundred men came to seize the farm of James Breakenridge in July 1771. Bennington in town meeting had voted to protect that farm and the sheriff's *posse* found the settlers of "the Grants," with Ethan Allen at their head, massed on the banks of the Walloomsac ready to teach them that "The gods of the valleys are not the gods of the hills." This was the "Bennington mob," but it was successful in defending the homes of the people on "the Grants" from the rapacity and greed of the Colonial Governors of New York. This "mob" was made up of the settlers in regard to whom a distinguished lady wrote:

"They are fierce Republicans, refusing to become tenants to any one and insisting on *owning* lands they should *occupy*; whose whole conversation is tainted with politics—Cromwellian politics; who talk about slaves to arbitrary power, and whose indifference to the Mother Country and whose illiberal opinions and manners are extremely offensive to all loyal subjects of the King."

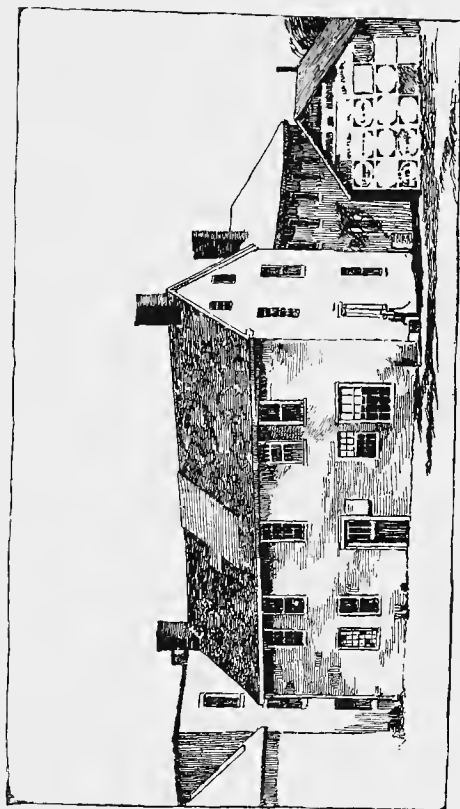
The members of the Bennington "mob," made up of the settlers

on "the Grants," are the same people of whom Burgoyne, later, wrote: "The New Hampshire Grants, in particular, a country unpeopled in the last war [French and Indian] now abounds in the most active and rebellious race of the continent and hangs like a gathering storm on my left."

The period of Vermont's independence was from January 17, 1777, to her admission to the Union in 1791. Her Declaration of Independence grew out of her land troubles with New York as told above. The State was formed from the territory of "the Grants" at a series of conventions, the first of which was held at the home of Cephas Kent in Dorset, in July 1776, at which place and time thirty-one delegates from "the Grants" assembled. The convention adjourned to meet September 25th, at the same place, when it was resolved "To take suitable measures, as soon as may be, to declare the New Hampshire Grants a separate district." These delegates again adjourned to meet at Westminster October 30, 1776, and once more to meet at the same place January 15, 1777. This convention at this time sat three days and about fifty-six delegates, representing thirty-six towns, were present. These delegates by resolution declared "That the district of territory comprehending and usually known by the name and description of the New Hampshire Grants, of right ought to be, and is hereby declared forever hereafter to be considered as a free and independent Jurisdiction or State, by the name of New Connecticut."

This was reported on the third day of the convention in a Declaration of Independence, formulated by a committee, consisting of Nathan Clark, Ebenezer Hosington, Captain John Burnham, Jacob Burton, and Colonel Thomas Chittenden. It was at once adopted. This declaration of New Connecticut was published to the world, in the *Connecticut Courant* newspaper, March 16, 1777. The representatives of the freemen of this new district next met at Windsor, in the following June, when the name of "New Connecticut" was changed to Vermont. On the second of July, 1777, these representatives again met to form a Constitution for the State of Vermont. These meetings were held in the Old Constitution House, which is still standing.

This constitution opens with a preamble setting forth in no uncertain terms the reasons for the making of a "free and independent State." The convention was considering the adoption of this constitution when a terrified horseman rode up and announced the invasion of Burgoyne with an army of Hessians and savages. The news spread consternation among the members, and they were for going home at once, but fortunately they were delayed by a violent



THE OLD CONSTITUTION HOUSE, WINDSOR, VERMONT.

In which the First Constitution of the State was adopted, "amid the fire and artillery of a thunder storm," July 8, 1777. *Vide* pp. 56, 57. See, also, "Governor and Council," Volume I., pp. I-103.

thunder storm during and amid the fire and artillery of which the constitution was adopted.

Closely connected with the history of Vermont as an Independent State is the story of her efforts to gain admission to the Federal Union. Her effort in that direction, indeed, antedates the adoption of her State constitution, for on the 30th day of June, 1777, Congress voted to dismiss a petition, signed by Jonas Fay, Thomas Chittenden, Heman Allen and Reuben Jones, asking that body to recognize her right to independence, and to admit her delegates to its councils. Congress, it would seem, was not ready to admit nor yet to deny the jurisdiction of New York over the territory of the New Hampshire Grants. That body, it is true, was often petitioned to settle the dispute between the sections, but it always declined to do so, and for a long time carefully refrained from expressing any opinion in regard to the merits of the controversy, evidently designing to leave its settlement to the parties themselves.

Vermont's troubles with her sister states, no doubt, kept her out of the Federal Union during the entire period of her independent existence, for whenever she sought admission, appeals were made by her enemies for the settlement of these difficulties. It must not be supposed that the formation of an independent State with a Governor and Council and all the political machinery for making and executing laws put an end to the territorial controversy between New York and Vermont. On the contrary, the organization of a state government was among the first effective steps taken by Vermont towards maintaining that controversy. For years afterward each continued to question and resist the authority of the other, often appealing to Congress, sometimes threatening civil war. This continued until 1784 when all question as to Vermont's authority was set at rest. Although this controversy kept Vermont out of the Union for a long time, it by no means diminished her importance and prestige. She not only maintained her authority, within her original limits, but she actually encroached upon both New York and New Hampshire. In January, 1781, representatives from all the towns for twenty miles east of the Connecticut River, met in convention at Charlestown, New Hampshire, and made application for admission to Vermont. About the same time a like application was made by the people of the towns of New York east of the Hudson River.

After the matter had been gravely considered in various conventions, called for that purpose, and after the localities most interested in the matter had voted upon it, Governor Chittenden, on the 18th day of July, 1781, formally declared that Vermont had

annexed the territory of New York westward to the Hudson River, and from New Hampshire all the territory twenty miles to the east from the Connecticut River. Thus while New York and New Hampshire were each claiming Vermont, the latter State boldly added to herself an extent of their territory equal to that over which she originally claimed jurisdiction, and this on the application of their own dissatisfied citizens. Writing on this subject, one of Vermont's early historians well says, "No measures could have better exhibited the genius of her statesmen, and none could have more effectually contributed to sustain her independence. By this bold and decisive policy, she augmented her resources, compelled the respect of her enemies and gained the confidence of her friends."

These facts go to show that the government of the Independent State of Vermont was liberal and efficient, and popular in other states as well as at home. They explain the statement, often disputed, that parts of the present State of New York were once under the jurisdiction of Vermont, and they point out why Vermont's admission to the Union was so long delayed, as well as why it was opposed by New Hampshire.

Vermont's action shifted the issue of the controversy between herself on the one side, and New York and New Hampshire on the other. Those states in the early part of the difficulty boldly discussed the question of dividing Vermont between them on the line of the Green Mountains. They now not only ceased to consider that question, but they freely acknowledged her jurisdiction over her original territory, and were only concerned lest she could never be kept on the reservation, lest she might eventually reach out and extend her domain so as to include them both. They really feared annihilation. Between New York and Vermont the question was no longer a question of the latter's supremacy on the New Hampshire Grants. That question was of little importance in the light of Vermont's later tendency to annex New York. The latter's desire in the controversy now was to have Vermont relinquish her jurisdiction over the strip of land between the Hudson River and Vermont's original western boundary. Whenever she sought admission to the Union — a thing she continued to do, although her people for a time came to care less and less about it — her admission was unitedly opposed by New York and New Hampshire on the ground that Vermont should first restore to them the annexed territory over which she had so arbitrarily assumed jurisdiction.

Vermont as an Independent State, having begun to enlarge her boundaries by the conquest of her neighbors, now attracted the lustful attention of England. That government sent letters to

Ethan Allen, proposing an alliance of Vermont with the Crown. General Allen, writing from Sunderland on the 9th of March, 1781, forwarded the letters, which at that time he had not answered, to the President of Congress, and with them a request that Vermont be admitted into the Union. Ethan Allen held that if Vermont were now refused admission, she would have the right to form any other alliance she might choose to form. As a matter of fact, Ethan Allen and other Vermont leaders were insincerely toying with the agents of England, and leading them to believe that there were hopes of an alliance between Vermont and the Crown. This was done with the double purpose of warding off the threatened attack of England, and of securing favorable terms of admission to the Federal Union. While in reality anything else was more probable than an alliance of Vermont with England, the plan of seeming to favor such a step was one of masterly statesmanship, and it was the only course that saved not only Vermont, but New York as well, from the combined and successful attacks of the British and Indians from the North. This was a critical period for Vermont. But the enduring courage and the wise statesmanship of her public men carried her safely through the storm whose clouds for awhile allowed no friendly star to shine.

The mysterious negotiations with England naturally stimulated Congress to more speedy action in regard to Vermont's admission to the Union. Accordingly on the 20th of August, 1781, after much examination of the question, as represented by parties from the states most concerned, Congress by resolution offered to admit Vermont according to her original extent of territory. This the General Assembly of Vermont declined to accept. Thus the matter stood when the Vermont Legislature in session at Charlestown, on the East side of the Connecticut River, adjourned in October, 1781, to meet in Bennington on the last Thursday of the following January.

The vexed questions in regard to Vermont's admission to the Union were now those touching her eastern and western annexations. Congress freely offered to guarantee her jurisdiction over all the territory originally claimed for her, and to admit such territory to the Union. The Vermont Legislature, as before stated, declined to accept the proposition, because it required the relinquishment of the eastern and western annexations. But when the Legislature, which had adjourned at Charlestown to meet at Bennington, next assembled, as it did early in 1782, Governor Chittenden laid before that body a letter from General Washington, strongly urging Vermont to give up her recently acquired territory, in accordance with

the desires of Congress. Accordingly on the 21st of February 1782, the Vermont Legislature, at Bennington, without division, voted to give up the eastern and western territory and to apply to Congress once more for admission as a State, and Jonas Fay, Moses Robinson, Paul Spooner and Isaac Tichenor were appointed agents of Vermont to settle with Congress the terms of her admission into the Federal Union. Thus it came about in March, 1782, that a committee of Congress again reported favorably upon the question of Vermont's admission, but with strange inconsistency the report was not acted upon. The agents of the State, therefore, on the 19th of April, 1782, after administering a dignified written rebuke to Congress for its bad faith, returned to Bennington. It was plain to these men that although Vermont had followed the advice of Washington and complied with the earlier resolutions of Congress, as to the relinquishment of her eastern and western territory, yet New York had secured the hostility of that body to Vermont's admission to the Union. This treatment of Vermont encouraged her old enemies, New York and New Hampshire, and intensified the bitterness that had so long existed. Trouble soon occurred that for a time threatened civil war. Congress at once took sides and on the 5th day of December, 1782, passed resolutions of a nature entirely hostile to Vermont, and threatened to enforce them by armed invasion of the State. At this juncture Washington earnestly objected to such employment of the army, and although New York urged immediate action, Congress hesitated to enforce its resolution. Vermont, through her Legislature and particularly by a sharp letter, written by Governor Chittenden from Arlington, April 26, 1784, vigorously resented the unwarranted interference of Congress. That body to make amends at once referred to a committee the old question of Vermont's admission to the Union. On the 29th of May the committee made a favorable report. On the 3d of June it was moved to postpone another matter, to vote upon the admission of Vermont, but the vote to postpone was not carried. This was the last time the Vermont question ever came up in the Continental Congress, and the question of her independence was never again raised anywhere. From that time until her admission to the Union, in 1791, she exercised unquestioned all the rights of a free and independent country. She established a standard of weights and measures, regulated the value and fineness of coins, passed an act giving to Reuben Harmon, Jr., of Rupert, the exclusive privilege of coining copper, established postoffices and appointed a Postmaster-General, and enacted other like measures for the public good. It was evident that all claims of other states to jurisdiction over her

territory were gone forever. It soon became a question with the leading men everywhere, even in New York, whether it were not for the interests of all to secure Vermont's admission to the Union. Alexander Hamilton urged it. The New York Legislature passed measures consenting to it, and the project grew in favor everywhere.

There was, however, one unsettled question that was a source of much discontent. Many residents of New York claimed title to property in Vermont. Some of these claims, though conflicting with the claims of Vermonters, were, no doubt, just. Of course these titles were secure to the people of Vermont as long as she might remain independent, but should she be admitted to the Union the claims of people in New York might be revived, for under the new order of things, the Federal courts would have jurisdiction in matters of dispute between citizens of different states. So as time passed on and old feuds and bitterness died out, it was everywhere acknowledged that for the peace and security of all parties, and to insure and to make all titles to property in Vermont forever clear beyond question, the matter of conflicting property claims should have immediate settlement. Accordingly on the 23d of October, 1789, the Vermont Legislature passed an act appointing Isaac Tichenor, Stephen R. Bradley, Nathaniel Chipman, Elijah Paine, Ira Allen, Stephen Jacob, and Israel Smith, as commissioners to confer with certain other commissioners to be appointed by the New York Legislature and giving them full power to settle all questions between New York and Vermont. After various meetings and adjournments it was settled that Vermont should pay New York \$30,000 in extinguishment of all claims which citizens in the latter State might have to property in Vermont. On the 28th of October, 1790, the Vermont Legislature voted to pay this sum to New York, and as its payment removed the last objection to Vermont's admission to the Union, at the same session a convention was called to meet at Bennington on the 6th of January, 1791, to consider the adoption of the United States constitution. On the 10th of the same month it was ratified by a vote of 105 to two. The Legislature at the same time, holding an adjourned session in Bennington, appointed Nathaniel Chipman and Lewis R. Morris to negotiate with Congress the terms of Vermont's admission into the Union, and on the 18th of February, 1791, that body without debate or objection passed an act declaring "That on the 4th day of March, 1791, the said State, by the name and style of the State of Vermont, shall be received into this Union as a new and entire member of the United States of America."

This in brief is an abridged outline of the story of Vermont's settlement and existence as "the Grants," of her independence, and,

finally, of her efforts and success in gaining admission to the Union, the celebration of the centennial of which is one of the dual observances of 1891. The story in detail is one of striking and unusual interest, and one that attracted great attention in early times. Vermont's cause won the admiration and enlisted the eloquence of Patrick Henry, who praised her and her Spartan mountaineers for their persistent courage in defending rights that in other colonies had been surrendered to English greed without a blow. In the light of her story it is easy to read the illustrious and romantic character of her people. Throughout her history they have been sturdy, independent and honest, quick to defend their rights and to demand justice for themselves, and as quick to accord justice to others. Seldom uncertain in choosing between absolute right and expedient wrong, Vermont has always stood at the head of the column in the great controversies vital to the cause of humanity and the safety of the Union.

Thus when slavery, if not existent, was at least protected in almost every state, Vermont through one of her judges said that a bill of sale transferring a negro to be valid must be in hand-writing and under the seal of the Almighty, and when the thunder of cannon shook the Carolinas in '61, the spirits of Warner and Allen and their brave followers in the struggles on "the Grants" seemed stalking abroad to rouse again the hardy yeomanry of the Green Mountains to service for their country, and the answer came in a victory shout from a hundred Southern fields. As her mountain hamlets have been in the past, so they will be in the future, nurseries of freedom as enduring as her beauty and her everlasting hills.



C. S. Page.

PART I.

The Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, and the Centennial Celebration of the Admission of Vermont into the Union. The Acts passed by the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; The Preparation made for the Event. The Grand Procession, and Incidents Attending its Line of March. The Exercises at the Monument, including the Introductory Remarks, Prayer by the Chaplain, Address of Welcome, Transfer of the Monument to the State, its Acceptance in behalf of the Commonwealth, The Oration, Address by The President, and the Benediction. The Banquet, and Postprandial Speeches.

CHAPTER I.

OFFICIAL ACTS AND PREPARATION.

THE PREPARATORY STAGE.—The completion of the masonry of the monument, in November, 1889, gave ample time for such preliminary steps as might be taken to ensure a suitable dedication of the structure, as well as opportunity to complete the interior, according to the plans adopted, before that date should arrive. The Centennial of the Admission of the State into the Union occurring March 4, 1891, at an inclement season of the year in this latitude, it was decided to celebrate that important event in conjunction with the Sixteenth of August celebration. The exact anniversary of the Battle of Bennington falling upon Sunday, the date of the dual observance was fixed by statute for August 19th. The Legislature of 1890, passed the following "Act" being "Number 175," of that session :

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT, AND THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ADMISSION OF VERMONT AS A STATE.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, as follows :

Section 1. The Governor is hereby directed to invite, in the name of the State of Vermont, the National Government, and the States of New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, to unite with the State of Vermont in the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, and Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Admission of Vermont as a State, at Bennington, August 19, 1891.

Section 2. The Governor of Vermont, with the Lieutenant-Governor, Speaker of the House, State Treasurer, and Secretary of State, shall constitute a committee of five which shall have the arrangement and general charge and management of the ceremonies attending the Dedication of said monument, and Centennial celebration, and, in the name of the State, shall issue all invitations to invited guests.

Section 3. All bills relating to the expense incurred in carrying out the provisions of the preceding sections, shall, on approval of at least three of said committee, be audited by the Auditor of Accounts, and, on his order, paid out of the State treasury.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Governor to call the annual encampment of the National Guard of Vermont at Bennington during the week of the dedication of said monument.

Approved November 25, 1890.

The Official State Committee, created by Section 1 of this statute, organized early, and the Governor, under date of February 10, 1891, duly forwarded to the President of the United States, and to the Governors of New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, the cordial invitation directed by the Act.

It was early learned from these Executives that they heartily responded, and would accept, if possible, and participate, with the Green Mountain State in the celebrations. The Legislature of New Hampshire passed the following:

JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DEDICATION OF THE BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT, AND THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ADMISSION OF VERMONT INTO THE UNION.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

That the Legislature of New Hampshire accept the invitation of the Governor of Vermont, transmitted by direction of the Legislature of that State, to unite with the States of Vermont and Massachusetts in the exercises attending the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, and the Centennial Celebration of the Admission of Vermont into the Union.

Resolved, That the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and hereby is appropriated, out of any money in the the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay the expenses for transportation of equipage and such of the military of the State as may attend the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, on the 19th of August next, such material and troops to be designated by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council and the Adjutant-General.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Vermont and to the Bennington Battle Monument Association.

Approved March 19, 1891.

The Legislature of Massachusetts, also, responded by passing



John V. Carney

"Chapter 92," of the "Resolves of 1891," and the Secretary of the Commonwealth, under date of June 18th, issued an order "That Major-General Samuel Dalton, Adjutant-General, be authorized to incur such expenses, not to exceed the amount appropriated as may be necessary," etc., to carry into effect the

RESOLVE RELATING TO THE DEDICATION OF THE BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT.

Resolved, That in order to accept the invitation of the Legislature of Vermont requesting the participation of the Commonwealth in the approaching Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, at Bennington, Vermont, in August of the present year, and the Celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Admission of Vermont as a State, there be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth a sum not exceeding twenty-seven hundred dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Governor and Council, to enable the Commonwealth to be properly represented through the following officials of the State Government: the Governor and not more than ten members of his Staff, the Lieutenant-Governor, the members of the Council, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Attorney-General, Treasurer and Receiver-General, Auditor, President and Clerk of the Senate, Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives, the joint Committee on Federal Relations, a special committee, to consist of five members of the Senate and fourteen members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the presiding officers of the two branches, the Brigade and Battalion Commanders of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, Sergeant-at-Arms, and a reporter from each Boston daily paper.

Approved May 3, 1891.

Meantime, as early as February 28, 1891, a public meeting of the citizens of Bennington was held for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization, in the interest of the proposed celebration and dedication, auxiliary to the State Committee. An adjournment was had until March 2nd, to hear the report of a committee of seven (of which Colonel L. F. Abbott, of the Governor's Staff, was chairman), chosen to nominate a "Committee of Fifty" for the purposes stated. The gentlemen named were elected and appear below, sub-divided in their respective committees. The local organization was made necessary by reason of the distance apart of the Official State Committee, and their residence so far from the scene of the proposed event.

March 31st a joint meeting was held in Bennington, of the "Official State Committee," and of the "Citizens Committee of Fifty." Governor Page presided, and the meeting resolved itself into a "committee of the whole" for the general discussion of the details of the celebration. Among the gentlemen present, not members of the aforesaid committees, we note: Quartermaster-General Wm. H. Gilmore, Adjutant-General Theo. S. Peck, Brigadier-Gen-

eral Wm. L. Greenleaf, General John G. McCullough, ex-Governor John W. Stewart, Colonels Julius J. Estey, M. S. Colburn, W. H. H. Slack, M. J. Horton, L. F. Abbott; and Hon. Henry G. Root, Major A. B. Valentine, Hon. James K. Batchelder, Messrs. J. T. Shurtleff, Chas. E. Dewey, and others of the Battle Monument Association.

At this meeting the action taken by the citizens of Bennington, was ratified, and the organization of the committees was promulgated as follows:

OFFICIAL STATE COMMITTEE. — *Appointed by Act No. 175 of the Laws of 1890.* — His Excellency Carroll S. Page, Governor of Vermont; His Honor Henry A. Fletcher, Lieutenant-Governor; Hon. Hosea Mann, Jr., Speaker of the House; Hon. Henry F. Field, State Treasurer; Hon. Chauncey W. Brownell, Jr., Secretary of State.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF FIFTY. — *Auxiliary to Official State Committee.* — John V. Carney, President; Edward L. Bates, Secretary. Executive Committee, John V. Carney, John S. Holden, Henry T. Cushman 2nd, Edward L. Bates, William C. Bull, Irving E. Gibson, Edward D. Bennett, Henry L. Stillson, Asaph P. Childs. Finance, John S. Holden, George F. Graves, Charles G. R. Jennings, William B. Sheldon, Edward W. Bradford, Edward D. Welling, Edward J. Hall. Entertainment, Henry T. Cushman, 2nd, Alfred Robinson, Lyman Rogers, C. Welling Thatcher, A. S. M. Chisholm, George A. Robinson, Henry D. Fillmore, Cyrus D. Gibson, Emmett B. Daley, Frederick S. Pratt, Frederick L. Bowen. Banquet and tents, John V. Carney, Henry S. Bingham, Robert J. Coffey, Rufus B. Godfrey, Burt C. Jenney, Edwin S. Chandler, Frank M. Tiffany. Music, Edward L. Bates, Emmett B. Daley, Rudolph O. Goldsmith, Alexander J. Cooper, Charles H. Darling. Decoration, William C. Bull, Frank G. Mattison, J. Ed. Walbridge, Thomas White, Norman M. Puffer, Harrison I. Norton, Edward L. Norton, Alexander K. Ritchie, Frank M. Tiffany. Carriages, Irving E. Gibson, John S. Lyman, John Robinson, Edwin D. Moore, Arthur J. Dewey, William J. Meacham. Transportation, Edward D. Bennett, Charles H. Mason, Emory S. Harris, H. Charles Lindloff, Frank W. Goodall. Printing, Henry L. Stillson, James H. Livingston, Richard M. Houghton, Norman M. Puffer, Harrison I. Norton. Pyrotechnics, Asaph P. Childs, E. Livingston Sibley, Henry J. Potter, Jr., Mortimer T. Hamlin.

Aside from this list several gentlemen were efficient as chairmen and members of special committees of the Masonic Fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and various other organizations that appeared in the line. The State Committee, the several chairmen of the sub-committees, as well as the officers of each, were untiring and earnest in all the labor involved, and were ably seconded by every one connected with their respective committees.

The Centennial Commission, thus organized, met often; frequently in Bennington, and sometimes in Rutland, wherever it was

practicable to call the majority together, and in this way they perfected the arrangements. Section 4, of the Act, directing the Governor to call the Annual Encampment of the Vermont National Guard at Bennington, seemed to imply a procession under military auspices. It was proposed by Major A. B. Valentine, and seconded by several, that such action be taken, and the committee unanimously agreed thereto. Accordingly the following was issued: .

STATE OF VERMONT,
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
MONTPELIER, VT., June 1, 1891.

Order Number One.

Brigadier-General William L. Greenleaf, commanding the Vermont National Guard, is hereby designated as Chief Marshal at the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument and Centennial Celebration of the Admission of Vermont as a State, to be held at Bennington, Vt., Wednesday, August 19, 1891.

As such Marshal he will provide suitable escorts for distinguished guests, and have charge of all matters relating to the parade to be held in connection with the celebration.

Military organizations and civic societies invited to participate in the parade will report to him at as early a date as practicable, for assignment to position in line, giving the name of the commander or chief officer, and the number of men expected to be present; also whether the organization will be accompanied by a band or other music. By order of

CARROLL S. PAGE, Governor, *Chairman of Committee.*
CHAUNCEY W. BROWNELL, JR., Secretary of State,
Secretary of Committee.

The Hon. Wheelock G. Veazey was chosen President of the Day, and the Hon. Edward J. Phelps, was, likewise, with cordial unanimity, elected Orator of the occasion, and both accepted. The Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D., of Boston, Mass., was asked to be Chaplain, and he, also, consented to act.

One of the contingencies to be provided for, early noted by the auxiliary committee, was the entertainment of the thousands who would probably come, especially the State guests. Of the latter over 1600 invitations were sent out, and probably from 1300 to 1400 answered and were present. The Committee on Entertainment organized a system by which each guest was met on his arrival, and assigned to a place among the hospitable homes of Bennington. The Committee on Banquet and Tents ably supplemented these labors, and the tenting accommodations, in addition to those referred to, were adequate to lodge and feed a much larger number of people; so that it appeared, says a newspaper reporter, that the problem had been solved of putting a 50,000 assembly into a 4000 town, in spite of predictions to the contrary. North Bennington efficiently sec-

onded these efforts, and to the people there many of our guests, distinguished or otherwise, are indebted for their entertainment while here.

Souvenir programmes were issued by the Committee on Printing and an edition, of 20,000 32-page pamphlets, containing railroad rates from all points in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Northern New York, was issued and distributed. During the celebration, another edition, of 20,000 Official Programmes, revised to that date, was also distributed.

The Committee on Transportation and the various railroads each contributed their full share toward the success of the great event. The railroads associated, principally, were the Bennington & Rutland, the Central Vermont, the Fitchburg, the Connecticut River, the Boston & Maine system, as well as the Lebanon Springs, Wells River, and other shorter roads. Especially to the first, which furnished the terminal accommodations, is credit due. That the great number who attended were brought here and safely returned to their homes is a feat in railroading seldom equalled, considering the circumstances.

Without going farther into detail, the story of the proceedings told in subsequent pages, will give the proper history of the main actors in the preparation for, and consummation of, this undertaking. The just tribute paid to the Official State Committee, in Part II., is referred to in this connection, as well as to others receiving due credit in other portions of this work.

CHAPTER II.

THE PROCESSION AND ITS INCIDENTS.

The day dawned clear and beautiful, and at an early hour, by five o'clock, nearly everybody in town was busy with their preparation for the great parade, the notable celebration, and all that followed it, closing with the pyrotechnic display in the evening. The most conservative estimates did not place the gathering at less than 30,000 people, while the calculations of a greater number went as high as 40,000 and above. It was very generally conceded that the number was somewhat less than at the Centennial in 1877, but the arrangements were more nearly perfect and the enjoyment greater. Everything radiated from the Soldiers' Home as a rendezvous, which, with its spacious grounds, it is not to be doubted, contributed very much to the success of the occasion.



C. O. Bennett

The New York *Tribune* says: "The events commemorated were celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion, and worthy of the patriotic descendants of those who fought for liberty and independence at Bennington, Bunker Hill, and in the other battles of the Revolution."

REPORT OF CHIEF MARSHAL.—The Report of the Chief Marshal, with the corrected list of organizations in line, comprises the facts of the procession in a condensed form, as follows:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MARSHAL,
BURLINGTON, VT., September 19, 1891.

His Excellency, Carroll S. Page, Chairman of the Committee, Hyde Park, Vermont.

SIR:—I have the honor to submit my report as Marshal of the parade in connection with the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, and Celebration of the Centennial of the Admission of Vermont into the Union, August 19, 1891. * * *

Owing to the fact that quite a number of organizations, participating in the parade, did not report until after the formation of the column had commenced, the "Order in Column," as given in Orders No. 2, is incomplete, and a corrected list of the organizations in line, with the number of men present, is herewith transmitted.

In accordance with the announcement, in Orders No. 2, the procession moved from the grounds of the Soldiers' Home *promptly* at 10 o'clock, A. M. A delay of a few minutes was occasioned after the start by reason of the crowd about the carriage of President Harrison; with this exception there were no delays at any point. The head of the column reached the Monument grounds at 11.15, and the last carriage was unloaded at 12.30. The services at the Monument having been completed, at 2.30, P. M., the column was reformed for the return march. The rear of the first division, with the distinguished guests, reached the "Home" at 3.20, P. M., and the different organizations were at once dismissed.

The column included eighty-eight military and civic organizations, twelve bands, six drum corps, and one hundred and eight carriages. While the number of men in line was probably somewhat less than at the Centennial Anniversary of the battle, in 1877, there were a larger number of handsomely uniformed bodies, and many gentlemen of large experience in such matters have pronounced the parade the finest ever witnessed in Vermont.

In closing this report, I desire to commend to your Excellency the Commanders of organizations, and the members of the Staff for the interest manifested, and for the intelligence and skill displayed in the execution of orders, which contributed so largely in making the parade an honor and credit to the State. Especial attention is called to John A. Logan Mounted Post, No. 88, G. A. R., Hon. H. G. Hibbard, Commander, for its valuable services in escorting President Harrison from North Bennington to the Soldiers' Home.

I would also take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to your Excellency, and the other gentlemen of the Com-

mittee, for the honor conferred upon me by the appointment as Marshal, and for the many courtesies at your hands during the preparation for the celebration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM L. GREENLEAF, Brig.-Gen. V. N. G.,
Chief Marshal.

FORMATION OF THE COLUMN FOR THE PARADE. —

Platoon of ten Mounted Officers, commanded by John Robinson, Sheriff.

Platoon of thirteen Police, commanded by John Nash, Chief of Police.

Brig.-Gen. Wm. L. Greenleaf, Chief Marshal.

Bvt. Lieut.-Col. Marcus D. Greene, Chief of Staff; Bvt. Lieut.-Col. William Smith, Chief Quartermaster; Maj. Robert J. Coffey, Provost Marshal.

Personal Aides — Capt. Ralph W. Hoyt, 11th Infantry, U. S. A.; Capt. Herbert S. Foster, 20th Infantry, U. S. A.

Orderly — Color Bearer — Bugler.

Escort. — John A. Logan Mounted Post, No. 88, Department of Vermont, G. A. R., H. G. Hibbard, Commander, 28 men.

FIRST DIVISION — RED FLAG.

Col. Julius J. Estey, First Regiment, V. N. G., Assistant Marshal, commanding.

Aides. — Lieut. James A. Lillis, Lieut. Charles H. Fuller, Lieut. J. Gray Estey, and Lieut Arthur G. Eaton, of the First Regiment, V. N. G.

Orderly — Color Bearer — Orderly.

Rublee's Band, of Lake Village, N. H., 26 pieces.

Maj. Charles H. Bartlett, commanding Battalion of Amoskeag Veterans, of Manchester, N. H.

Staff. — Adj. John Gannon, Jr.; Judge Advocate, Henry E. Burnham; Chaplain, W. H. Morrison; Surgeon, M. B. Sullivan; Asst. Surg., C. E. Dodge; Paymaster, Charles L. Harmon; Quartermaster, Moses Wadleigh.

Company A. — Captain Benjamin F. Clark, 30 men.

Company B. — Captain George H. Wilson, 30 men.

(As escort to reviewing party in carriages.)

First carriage, — President Benjamin Harrison; Governor C. S. Page, of Vermont; Col. W. Seward Webb, A. D. C.

Maj. John S. Drennan and Detail from the Department of Vermont, G. A. R., as Guard of Honor; and eighteen carriages.

(Names in full will be found in Part II., Chap. II.)

Montpelier Military Band, 40 pieces.

First Regiment, Vermont National Guard, Lieut.-Col. Charles C. Kinsman, commanding.

Maj. Geo. H. Bond; Maj. John H. Watson; Maj. Calvin W. Evans; Lieut. B. B. Perkins, Acting Adjutant; Maj. James N. Jenne, Surgeon; Lieut. W. D. Huntington, Lieut. Henry H. Lee, Asst. Surgeons; Capt. John D. Wyman, I. R. P.; Rev. Howard F. Hill, Chaplain.



Wm L. Greuleof

- Co. D. — St. Johnsbury Guard, St. Johnsbury — Capt. A. W. Roberts, 51 men.
- Co. C. — Sprague Guard, Brandon — Capt. J. W. Symons, 51 men.
- Co. I. — Estey Guard, Brattleboro — Capt. F. W. Childs, 51 men.
- Co. A. — Kingsley Guard, Rutland — Capt. T. A. Davis, 51 men.
- Co. K. — Bennington Rifles, Bennington — Capt. H. D. Fillmore, 51 men.
- Co. F. — New England Guard, Northfield — Capt. G. C. Bates, 51 men.
- Co. M. — Frontier Guard, Richford — Capt. W. S. Thayer, 51 men.
- Co. B. — Barlow Grays, St. Albans — Capt. J. H. Mimms, 51 men.
- Co. E. — Spencer Rifles, Barre — Lieut. Fred B. Mudgett, 50 men.
- Co. L. — Newport Rifles, Newport — Capt. G. D. Pratt, 51 men.
- Co. G. — Bradford Guard, Bradford — Capt. C. E. Clark, 51 men.
- Co. H. — Capitol Guard, Montpelier — Capt. O. D. Clark, 51 men.
- First Regiment Band, N. H. N. G., 30 pieces.
- Battalion, New Hampshire National Guard, Maj. Francis O. Nims, commanding.
- Lieut. Frank B. Perkins, 1st Regt., Adjutant; Lieut. Arthur M. Dodge, 3d Regt., Quartermaster; Lieut. Robert Burns, 3d Regt., Asst. Surgeon.
- Company H., First Regt., Manchester, Capt. J. H. Soly, 49 men.
- Company G., Second Regt., Keene, Capt. O. E. Upham, 49 men.
- Company C., Third Regt., Concord, Capt. W. C. Trenoweth, 49 men.
- Doring's Band, Troy, N. Y., 24 pieces.
- Twenty-First Separate Company, N. G. S. N. Y. (Tibbits Corps), of Troy, N. Y., Capt. Jas. H. Lloyd, commanding, 83 men.
- Light Guard Drum Corps, North Adams, Mass., 10 pieces.
- Light Guard Battalion, North Adams, Mass., Maj. F. H. Flemming, commanding, 60 men.
- Company B., Second Regt., M. V. M., Amherst, Mass., Capt. E. G. Thayer, commanding, 32 men.
- Thirty-Second Separate Company Band, 27 pieces.
- Thirty-Second Separate Company, N. G. S. N. Y., Hoosick Falls, N. Y., Capt. Charles W. Eddy, commanding, 76 men.
- Battery B., Fourth Artillery, U. S. A., Bvt.-Maj. Harry B. Cushing, commanding, 53 men.
- First Light Battery, Vermont National Guard, Bvt.-Col. Levi K. Fuller, commanding, 80 men.

SECOND DIVISION — WHITE FLAG.

- Col. Albert W. Metcalf, Second Regiment, N. H. N. G., Assistant Marshal, commanding.
- Aides.* — Maj. Charles E. Nelson, V. N. G.; Lieut. Sumner Nims, N. H. N. G.; Gen. Levi G. Kingsley, G. A. R.; Gen. Chas. F. Branch, K. T.; Capt. F. L. Greene, S. of V.
- Orderly — Color Bearer — Orderly.
- U. S. Military Academy Band, 30 pieces.
- Lieut.-Col. H. S. Hawkins, U. S. A., Commandant Corps of Cadets, U. S. Military Academy.
- Staff.* — Capt. W. F. Spiergin, 21st Infantry; Capt. W. Fitzhugh Carter, Medical Dep't; First Lieut. J. D. C. Haskins, 3d Artillery; First Lieut. E. E. Hardin, 7th Infantry; First Lieut. W. W. Gilbraith, 5th Artillery;

- First Lieut. John A. Johnston, 8th Cavalry; First Lieut. Dan'l L. Tate, 3d Cavalry; Second Lieut. T. Bentley Mott, 1st Artillery.
Corps of Cadets, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, 240 men.
Proctorsville Cornet Band, 25 pieces.
- Department of Vermont, Grand Army of the Republic, D. L. Morgan, Commander, and Staff, 500 men, 20 flags.
Fairfax Drum Corps, 10 pieces.
- Willard Post, G. A. R., Troy, N. Y., Chas. M. Leet, Commander, 60 men.
Rochester Drum Corps, 10 pieces.
- Vermont Veteran Association of Boston, Mass., John J. Warden, President, 30 men.
- Mount Calvary Mounted Commandery, No. 1, K. T., Middlebury, Sir Frank A. Goss, Eminent Commander, 56 men.
(As special escort to Grand Commandery.)
- Grand Commandery, Knights Templars of Vermont, Right Eminent Kittridge Haskins, Grand Commander; Marsh O. Perkins, Deputy Grand Commander; Warren G. Reynolds, Grand Recorder.
St. Albans Brigade Band, 30 pieces.
- Lafayette Commandery, No. 3, of St. Albans, Sir George W. Burleson, Eminent Commander, 33 men.
- Burlington Commandery, No. 2, of Burlington, Sir Henry H. Ross, Eminent Commander, 25 men.
Meacham Drum Corps, 8 pieces.
- Vermont Commandery, No. 4, of Windsor, Sir Henry L. Williams, Eminent Commander, 58 men.
- Palestine Commandery, No. 5, of St. Johnsbury, Sir Fred W. Taylor, Eminent Commander, 45 men.
- Killington Commandery, No. 6, of Rutland, Sir Edward V. Ross, Eminent Commander, 60 men.
First Regiment Band, Brattleboro, 26 pieces.
- Beauseant Commandery, No. 7, of Brattleboro, Sir William H. Vinton, Eminent Commander, 53 men.
- Mount Zion Commandery, No. 9, of Montpelier, Sir N. W. Frink, Eminent Commander, 24 men.
- Malta Commandery, No. 10, of Newport, Sir Edwin B. True, Eminent Commander, 20 men.
- Taft Commandery, No. 8, of Bennington, Sir Wm. Bogert Walker, Eminent Commander, 25 men.
Moodus Drum and Fife Corps, 16 pieces.
- Putnam Phalanx, of Hartford, Conn., Maj. O. H. Blanchard, commanding, and Staff, 91 men.
- Detachment of Fuller's Battery in Continental Uniform, in charge of two pieces of artillery captured by Gen. Stark at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777.
- Vermont and other State Societies, Sons of the American Revolution, Maj. A. B. Valentine, Marshal; Col. Olin Scott, Col. D. J. Safford, Col. M. K. Paine, Aides, 75 men.
Bennington Citizens Band, 20 pieces.
- Captain Frank Ray Camp, Sons of Veterans, Bennington, Capt. Andrew Maurer, commanding, 75 men.

Manchester Drum Corps, 12 pieces.
 Visiting Camps of Sons of Veterans, 45 men.
 Illinois Association Sons of Vermont and kindred Societies, 50 men.
 Vermont Senators and Representatives, 115 men.

THIRD DIVISION — BLUE FLAG.

Col. William M. Strachan, Ninth Regiment, M. V. M., Assistant Marshal, commanding.

Aides. — Capt. Max L. Powell; Capt. Allen H. Sabin, V. N. G.; Chevalier J. I. Loomis, Patriarchs Militant.

Lieut.-Gen. John C. Underwood, Commander of the Army, Patriarchs Militant.

Staff. — Col. W. H. Ralph, A. A. G.; Col. H. L. Stillson, Gen. Staff Corps; Lieut.-Col. L. E. Welch, Lieut.-Col. W. D. Wilson, Lieut.-Col. C. M. Campbell, Lieut.-Col. H. W. Hall, Maj. H. W. Blanchard, Maj. Geo. W. Young, Capt. F. D. Lapham.

Underwood Hussars, Troop 2, Patriarchs Militant, Boston, Mass., Capt. Wellington Howes, commanding, 20 mounted men.

Col. N. M. Puffer, commanding Department of Vermont, Patriarchs Militant.

Staff. — Maj. J. W. Goodell, A. A. G.; Maj. F. M. Warner, A. I. G.; Lieut. H. C. Lindloff, A. D. C.

First Regiment, Patriarchs Militant, Department of Vermont, Lieut.-Col. Lowell C. Grant, commanding.

Staff. — Capt. H. L. Hoyer, Adjt.; Capt. J. W. Smith, Q. M.; Capt. I. E. Gibson, Commissary; Maj. H. J. Potter, Jr., Surgeon; Capt. J. D. Lance, Asst. Surgeon; Rev. S. F. Calhoun, D.D., Chaplain; Lieut. H. P. Frost, Bannerett; Sergt. John H. Ayres, Sergeant-Major.

Sherman Military Band, Burlington, 30 pieces.

Canton Lafayette of Burlington, Capt. L. G. Burnham, 29 men.

Canton Bennington of Bennington, Capt. E. S. Harris, 35 men.

Canton Palestine of Brattleboro, Capt. J. C. Timson, 36 men.

Canton Rutland of Rutland, Capt. L. V. Greene, 35 men.

Canton Montpelier of Montpelier, Capt. L. A. Flint, 38 men.

Canton Vinton of Barre, Capt. J. B. Dillon, 50 men.

Canton Franklin of St. Albans, Capt. H. C. Sperry, 30 men.

Brig.-Gen. James O. Woodward, commanding First Brigade, Patriarchs Militant, Department of New York.

Staff. — Lieut.-Col. D. G. Face, Special A. D. C.

Canton Nemo, No. 1, Patriarchs Militant, Albany, N. Y., 60 men.

Third Regiment, Patriarchs Militant, Department of Massachusetts, Col. George H. Randel, commanding.

Lieut.-Col., Geo. F. Amidon; Maj. J. B. Farley; Capt. T. C. Cronan, Adjt.; Capt. D. N. Pratt, Q. M.; Capt. Geo. E. Heath, Asst.

Surgeon; Lieut. E. F. Stone, Bannerett.

North Adams Military Band, 25 pieces.

Canton Worcester, No. 3, Worcester, Capt. John A. Sears, 45 men.

Canton Hebron, No. 4, Fitchburg, Capt. Geo. H. Sprague, 45 men.

Canton Tabor, No. 8, Shelburne Falls, Capt. J. C. Perry, 30 men.

Canton Orange, No. 52, Orange, Capt. W. H. Lathrop, 25 men.

Canton Athol, No. 60, Athol, Capt. W. H. Heustis, 20 men.

Canton Colfax, No. 28, North Adams, Capt. N. B. Flood, 25 men.
 Canton Springfield, No. 23, Springfield, Capt. W. E. Sanderson,
 30 men.

Knights of Pythias, North Adams, Mass., 25 men.

Ninety-one carriages with invited guests in charge of Bvt. Lieut.-

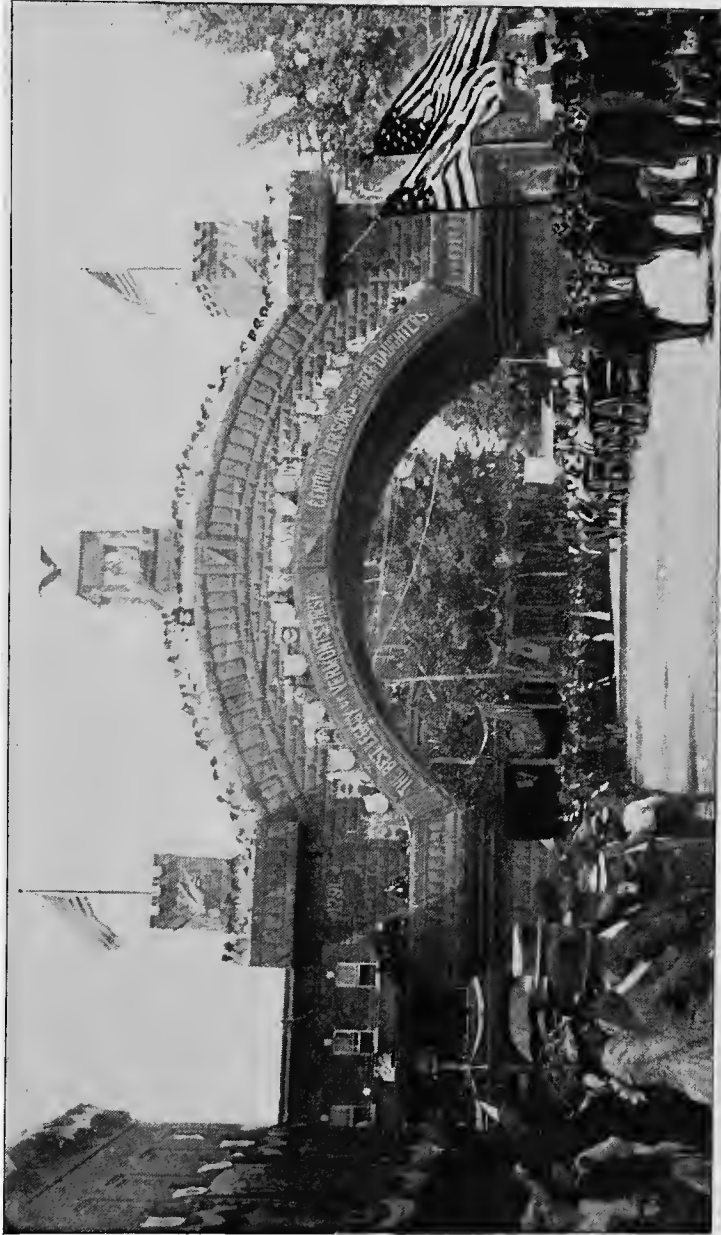
Col. William Smith, Q. M., First Brigade, V. N. G., assisted by

Sergt. H. B. Chamberlain, Brigade Q. M. Sergeant.

RECAPITULATION. —	Officers and Men
Military Organizations	1600.
Grand Army of the Republic	625.
Patriarchs Militant	600.
Invited Guests, etc.	589.
Musicians	390.
Knights Templars	380.
Civic Societies	175.
Sons of Veterans	125.
Aggregate	4,484.
Carriage and saddle horses, 511.	

LINE OF MARCH. — The route of the procession, after leaving Camp Vermont, was through North, Gage, Safford, and Main streets to the reviewing stand, near the corner of Main street, and Dewey avenue. President Harrison and party having taken position in the stand, the column passed in review [for account in detail, see Part II.], and continued the march to the Monument where the troops and other organizations were massed on the east and west sides of the Grand Stand. At the conclusion of the ceremonies the column reformed, and returned to the grounds of the Soldiers' Home by way of Main, and North streets, where it was dismissed.

DECORATIONS, AND TRIUMPHAL ARCH. — Bennington was decorated in all quarters, the public and business buildings, and private residences being hidden by bunting and streamers, the National colors predominating, while triumphal arches spanned the streets at frequent intervals. Of these we mention two, the first being situated at the entrance to the Soldiers' Home grounds, head of North street. The frame work, of timber, was entirely concealed by evergreens. The pillars at the side were eight by sixteen feet, and the outside length of the span was 56 feet. On the south-front, over the key-stone, appeared the word "Welcome," wrought in white immortelles. Beneath this was suspended a floral horse shoe, and at each end a floral star. On the North, or inner front of the arch, in white immortelles, was the motto and dates: "1777 — Molly Stark was not Widowed — 1891"; above them, an American flag in cut flowers. The arch, also, bore the inscription "Camp Vermont," and two large United States flags hung as drapery under the span. When the procession moved from camp it passed under this arch.



THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH.

Showing passage of detachment of Fuller's Battery, in Continental uniform, in charge of two pieces of artillery captured by General Stark at the battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777. (Page 72.)

The "Triumphal Arch" was placed at the intersection of Main, North, and South streets; and, among the many attractive decorations, there was nothing to compare with it. At an early meeting of the Committee on Decoration, it was decided that the most satisfactory results would be realized, by concentrating the efforts of the committee, in the construction of an arch that should be, in quality and design, far beyond the custom pertaining to such occasions. It was, therefore, proposed to prepare *one* structure which should be a credit to them, and a praise to the liberality of the State in encouraging such a display of patriotism.

The design was prepared and submitted to the Official State Committee by Chairman Wm. C. Bull, a resident architect; and, being unanimously adopted, he was directed to superintend its construction, and to work out, to a satisfactory completion, all the ideas of embellishment such a design was susceptible. The most flattering results were obtained, and could only be fully appreciated by a personal inspection of its completed form. The Arch was a massive structure of wood, covered with canvas, artistically painted to imitate the rough stone and finished seams of the Battle Monument. It had a length of nearly seventy-five feet, a breadth of about eighteen feet, and a height of over sixty feet. So faithfully was the plan of a stone structure accomplished that many visitors spoke of "The excellent stone cutting, and the time that must have been consumed in its erection." Many were impelled to feel of it, and others struck it with canes, in order to be convinced of the material.

It will be noted, by the illustration, that this triumphal structure was intended to represent a "Living Arch," figurative of the times, and commemorative of the firm and vigorous labors of our ancestors, who assisted in establishing the Republic during one of the most vital periods of its existence as a State and Nation.

The turreted top of the Arch was occupied by about one-hundred and seventy-five young ladies, and children from the public schools, who sang patriotic songs, under the direction of Prof. Hubert W. Downs. They were dressed in pure white, and, with their hair falling loosely about their necks, looked, as a woman remarked to her escort, "Like little angels, every one of them." In the lower balcony, on either side, stood thirteen ladies representing the Original States. They were dressed in costume, and each bore in one hand the United States and in the other their respective State shields. Wearing a broad bandana, and with the dark walls of the arch as a foil, they made an extremely handsome picture. Miss Lillian B. Adams, one of Bennington's fair daughters, clad in

the time-honored colors and robes of the Goddess of Liberty, with staff and cap, occupied a throne of gold and National colors in the lofty turret on the top of the main arch.

More than 8000 people had gathered in the vicinity, filling the streets, the house-tops, and every possible inch of observation space, to witness the parade. Frequent and hearty was the applause bestowed upon the various organizations, as they filed past, in brilliant array, to the inspiring notes of martial music played by some of the finest bands in this country, and a stranger could scarcely believe he was not in some large city witnessing a National demonstration, so great was the display, whether it be of the military or civic organizations.

When the victoria, drawn by four white horses, containing President Harrison, Governor Page, Doctor Wm. Seward Webb, Colonel and special A. D. C., approached the Arch, The President stood with uncovered head; the Goddess of Liberty, also, arose and saluted in recognition. As The President passed under the Arch, a shower of roses fell from the hands of the children, sprinkled his carriage and all about it. At the same time the chorus of childish voices struck up "America," while the shouts from the 8000 people, increased in volume by the multitude on the house-tops, swelled the enthusiasm to a degree seldom witnessed. These demonstrations attended the Presidential party along the whole route from Camp Vermont to the Monument and return.

During the week of the Celebration, the Arch was kept lighted at night, with nearly three hundred electric lamps, arranged along its outline, and, also, at every point which would add to its scenic effect. On the evening of the 19th, several powerful calcium lights were kept burning, showing the structure with a peculiar effect, making plain the mottoes: "1777 — You see the Red Coats, they are ours, or Mollie Stark sleeps a Widow to-night," being the historic words uttered by General Stark as he rallied his men to fight on the field of Bennington; the other half of the same side of the Arch had the words, "Peace hath her Victories, no less Renowned than War — 1891." These are the mottoes that were used on the Arch of 1877. The opposite, or eastern side, is shown in the illustration. These mottoes appeared to be cut in raised letters upon a rough and ancient stone face.

THE GRAND STAND. — The sight from the Grand Stand — as the long column curled up the hill, and marched around the Monument to the places assigned the different companies and platoons, on the grounds in front of the Stand — was the finest and most imposing spectacle of the sort ever seen in this State, and bears out the



William C. Bull.

statement of the Chief Marshal in his report to the Governor, given above.

THE SALUTE.—When the artillery reached Monument Park Battery B, 4th Artillery, U. S. A., Major H. C. Cushing, commanding, left the line, took a position near the Speakers' stand and faced the valley toward the East. The First Light Battery, V. N. G., Colonel Fuller in command, arrived soon afterward. The salute was given by Cushing's Battery. There were four 32-calibre breech-loading field pieces. The guns were pointed South, in the direction of Main street, and the President's salute, twenty-one guns, was fired. At 11.45 o'clock Major Cushing gave the order to dismount. At 11.50 o'clock the guns were prepared for firing, and a moment later the loud reports were heard through the valley. The four guns were reloaded as fast as Major Cushing gave the orders. The last gun was fired at 11.55 o'clock. At noon the guns wheeled and the caissons resumed position in the rear. During the firing Colonel Fuller's Battery was stationed farther down the hill. Before The President and other distinguished guests reached the Monument the artillery had disappeared, moving across the field. Both companies were then ordered back to camp at the Soldiers' Home.

CHAPTER III.

THE DEDICATORY AND CENTENNIAL EXERCISES.

THE MONUMENT DEDICATED.—The Grand Stand had been erected just south of the massive and lofty pillar which will tell generations yet unborn of the patriotism of the Green Mountain Boys, and their allies, of 1777. Seats for one thousand had been provided, and the whole roofed with canvas. The decorations included twenty-eight flags of the pre-Revolutionary and Revolutionary period, preceding the adoption of the "stars and stripes," or the era between 1634 and 1777. The unique collection furnished an interesting study in the history of American flags. The seats were arranged in three tiers, The President's station being in the center of the second plane, decorated with the National flag, the "coat of arms" of the United States, and the State flag of Vermont. When all were in their places, and quiet had been restored, the President of the Day advanced to the front of the platform and addressed the vast concourse :

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY HON. WHEELOCK G. VEAZEY, PRESIDENT OF THE DAY. —

There is to be a dual observance in Bennington to-day. One part is to be in the nature of a Dedication of this Monument; the other, a Celebration of the one hundredth Anniversary of the Admission of Vermont into the Federal Union of States. Each would naturally assume somewhat of a National character. Together they make an occasion of unusual National importance.

We stand at the point where Stark had brought volunteers from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont, in August, 1777, to defend the military stores here collected, and to operate in his discretion upon the flank of the hostile army which, in its southward movement through the Champlain Valley, invaded the western borders of the territory of Vermont.

With true knightly spirit, and a lady-love allusion that sparkles of heraldry, the brave General boldly abandoned the defensive, and gallantly led his crude force to assault, and to decisive victory against a trained foe, in a chosen position.

Measured by the numbers engaged, or by the experience of thousands of men to-day standing on this ground, it was a small affair. Measured by consequences, and the verdict of history, it was a battle of surpassing importance. It is this fact that accounts for the erection of this massive structure a century after Burgoyne had the sudden attack of heart failure, when he heard of the result at Bennington. It is this fact that accounts for the presence of The President and Cabinet, of Governors and statesmen from so many parts of the broad land that now constitute our country.

To each and all of her sons and daughters, now here from beyond her borders, to each and all of her other visitors, who so much honor us by their presence, the people of Vermont — thrilled with pride of her part in the heroic scenes that made Bennington memorable, when Warner rode by the side of Stark, and Herrick hurled his corps of unerring riflemen against the entrenchments of Baum — extend hand and heart with one universal acclaim of deep, sincere welcome.

In the arrangement of the long programme, it is appointed that the first part, shall be here enacted, and with becoming reverence the exercises will be opened by prayer.

At the conclusion Judge Veazey introduced the Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D., of Boston, the Chaplain of the Day, who delivered this Invocation:

PRAYER OF DR. PARKHURST. —

Thou God of Nations, as of individuals, hear us in this com-



W. L. Peasey

memorative hour. A great cloud of witnesses lift most grateful voice to Thee. Hallowed memories thrill us. This is thy chosen land, and we are Thy people. Thine own Word is the inspiration of personal freedom. Out of Thy Book our fathers were taught to sigh for individual liberty. To these shores thou didst lead them to found a State. We praise Thee to-day for the heritage that comes to us in this goodly land, and in a patriotic ancestry. That ardent love of liberty, of country and of home, Thou didst impart. The language of freedom was heard from these hills: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." Thou didst say: "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"; "Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free"; "Brethren, ye have been called unto liberty"; For the generation that learned so well these lessons, we thank Thee. For the women and the men who could die, but who could not be enthralled, we thank Thee. For all the heroism, sacrifice and quenchless faith we thank Thee. Especially for the record for which a grateful people rear this Monument, we thank Thee. For the alertness and the courage to meet a great crisis and turn back the oppressor, we thank Thee. For the part which this trinity of States bore in that conflict, we rejoice. Such history and fellowship to-day are our glory and our hope. The valorous love of liberty which shone forth in the Green Mountain Boys, in the sons of the Granite State and the Berkshire Hills, is our enthusiastic joy. Thou dost link us indissolubly together in these thrilling memories. We thank Thee that Thou hast made such a celebration of the past possible. We rejoice in the perpetuity in the children, of the spirit which we crown in the fathers. Sanctify to this nation the patriotic lessons of this hour. Speak to the people of this great land. Let an impulse of holier patriotism possess us. Let eloquent tongue and printed page awaken to a more grateful loyalty to Thee, to the institutions which we inherit, and the solemn duties of Christian citizenship. Help us to meet victoriously the perils that always threaten the freedom of the individual and the State. To those summoned to the grave responsibility of governing, in State and Nation, grant illuminating grace and fidelity to personal conviction. Greatly bless this, our dear native land. Let civil and religious liberty everywhere prevail. Achieve in us and through us Thine own great and gracious purpose for all peoples. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. AMEN.

President Veazey then introduced Hon. Carroll S. Page, Governor of Vermont, and, in presenting him, alluded to his vigorous and successful efforts in preparing for this great Vermont festival:

ADDRESS OF WELCOME. —

One hundred and fourteen years ago a band of Green Mountain boys, representing what was then known as the New Hampshire Grants, met in Westminster, and, in convention duly assembled,

Resolved, That Vermont "Of right ought to be, and is hereby declared forever hereafter to be, a free and independent Jurisdiction or State."

Fourteen years ago the sons and daughters of Vermont gathered here, with patriotic citizens from sister states, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of our State, and of the battle, in which our fathers took such an important and distinguished part.

To-day we again gather on this historic ground to celebrate, not our natal, but our wedding day; the Centennial anniversary of the wedding of our destinies as a State to those of the great Federal family, and to dedicate to Liberty this majestic shaft which shall, through coming ages, stand as a memorial to those brave men who fought for principles which shall outlast this column, and died that Liberty might live.

We welcome our neighbors from the old Bay State, whose noble ancestors from yon valleys of Berkshire rallied at the tocsin of war, and, snatching the battered arms of their fathers, hastened like brothers to this field of conflict.

We welcome our many friends from the Granite State, whose patriotic fathers, under the leadership and inspired by the peerless courage of the gallant Stark, flocked to yonder battlefield to join, with Warner and Herrick, in that memorable battle which the historian of to-day records as one of the most important and decisive of any of the Revolution.

We welcome, as a mother welcomes her long absent children, those sons of our own Green Mountain State who have gone forth from their native hillsides to win honorable records in every field. You have made us proud of the name of Vermont, and with a mother's pride we offer you a mother's blessing; God bless you. Though wealth and honors have come to you in other lands, we are unspeakably happy in the thought that when you turn your faces Vermontward you feel that you are coming home.

Yes, sons of Massachusetts, sons of New Hampshire, sons of Vermont, yes everybody, from the official head of the grandest Nation the sun ever shone upon to the plain, untitled citizen, friend and stranger, distinguished or unknown, thrice welcome all to the festivities of this, our Centennial anniversary.

Your presence attests alike your grateful recollection of Vermont's grandest historic achievement, and early devotion to the



Charles Parkhurst,

Union, and your sympathy with the patriotic and inspiring ceremonies, of this day, that shall enshrine that achievement and that devotion in the memories of her people.

In this august presence she unrolls the record of an hundred years, and points with just pride to an historic page upon which she finds nothing she would conceal, nothing she would obliterate.

The next speaker on the programme was ex-Governor Benj. F. Prescott of New Hampshire, President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association. In presenting him President Veazey alluded to the great services of Governor Prescott for the past fifteen years, in behalf of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, first as Governor of New Hampshire, and, also, as an officer of this Association from its organization to the present time:

ADDRESS, AND TRANSFER OF THE MONUMENT TO THE STATE, BY EX-GOVERNOR PRESCOTT. —

Your Excellency:—My duty on this occasion is simple, and I should transcend it if I attempted to recite the events preceding and at the Battle of Bennington.

That duty has been committed to a gentleman whose ripe scholarship, and graceful eloquence, admirably qualify him for the effort, and to whom this vast concourse of people will be delighted to listen.

I will, however, allude to a few facts, purely historical, as this event may justify such a recital.

One hundred and fourteen years ago a battle was fought in this vicinity, under the leadership of General John Stark, of New Hampshire, by the patriotic volunteer citizens of that State, and others of Vermont and Massachusetts, whose heroism and devotion to the cause of liberty have never been excelled. At the expiration of a century, a great gathering, in 1877, assembled in Bennington, and, with imposing ceremonies, celebrated the anniversary of that battle.

A movement had been inaugurated to erect a monument on this spot, to commemorate the battle, and the Battle Monument Association, which had been organized for that purpose, was entrusted with the prosecution of the work.

A design was adopted. The United States, the States of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, with the liberal and patriotic citizens of the States contributed sufficient means to accomplish the undertaking.

In August, 1887, there was another interesting and imposing gathering on this spot, when the corner-stone of this magnificent structure was laid.

On that day the same corner-stone, when laid, was committed

by His Excellency, the Governor of Vermont, through me to the Bennington Battle Monument Association, receiving the assurance that a shaft should be erected thereon, "Beautiful and artistic in design, massive in structure, which shall in the coming ages mark one of the most important localities in our land."

How well that promise has been fulfilled, let all, who behold this structure, judge.

The genius of the Architect, the faithfulness of the Builder, the constant vigilance of the Building Committee can all be seen in this the highest and grandest Battle Monument on earth.

We gather to-day to dedicate and to consecrate it. And now, sir, in this distinguished presence, with this vast assembly as witnesses, in which the states of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire are conspicuously represented by their Governors and State officials; in the presence of the Chief Magistrate and his Cabinet Ministers, and the representatives of the Army and Navy of the Republic, which was made possible by the result of this battle, in the presence of the veterans, of the last great war, who saved it from destruction, and of the citizen soldiery, and civic organizations that participate in this celebration, — I, as President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, in its behalf and by its direction now transfer through you as Governor, to the State of Vermont, this monument, erected to commemorate one of the most decisive battles of the Revolution, and this deed conveys the title to the property.

I know, sir, it will be as sacredly guarded in the coming ages as was the soil on which it stands more than a century ago, and will inspire all who behold it to increased devotion to the best government on earth.

The President then again introduced Governor Page who accepted the monument in behalf of the State.

ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOVERNOR. —

Governor Prescott: — In behalf of Vermont I accept from you, as President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, this title deed, and the responsibilities which its acceptance involves.

You convey to us the title to the property, but I assure you, Mr. President, that Vermont's interest in this monument shall ever be something more than a mere property interest. So long as the sons and daughters of Vermont shall honor bravery and patriotism, and revere the memory of a loyal, self-sacrificing ancestry; so long, I am sure, will this memorial of a patriotism as pure and holy as ever made its home in the breast of man, be guarded and cared for as a sacred trust.

It shall stand here untouched, save by the finger of time, to tell to our children, and our children's children the story of the struggle for liberty, and to inspire all who may come beneath its shadow with a deeper love of country, and a higher appreciation of those men whose sacrifices made possible the priceless blessings we are, to-day, privileged to enjoy.

Your Association, sir, has earned and receives our gratitude for the faithful manner in which it has discharged the important trust committed to its care. You have done all that you promised. The work so auspiciously begun by you, in 1887, has been carried forward, until, to-day, it stands before us complete from base to cope-stone, a work of architectural beauty.

Well done good and faithful servants. Vermont accepts the title to your completed work, but will claim only a joint ownership with New Hampshire and Massachusetts in all that it is, and all that it commemorates; and may this property which we here hold in common, and our common interest in that historic past, ever tend to perpetuate the friendly and fraternal relations which have always existed between us.

VERMONT CENTENNIAL ODE. —

This hymn, composed for the occasion by Doctor Emmett B. Daley, was set to music by Professor Rudolph O. Goldsmith, and was rendered by a selected choir.

At the conclusion of the hymn the President presented Hon. Edward J. Phelps, of Burlington, Vermont, as the Orator, in the following words: On the 4th day of March, 1791, the Act of Congress took effect by which Vermont was admitted into the Union. For some years previous she had been an Independent State. She had resisted attempted governmental jurisdiction over her territory from her neighbors on the east and on the west; she had united with the Colonies in resisting the power of Great Britain during the War of the Revolution; she was ever ready to come into the Union of States on just conditions. After years of turmoil and strife she attained this result, and now takes great pride in her constant and faithful devotion to her then new relation. To her it was a Union forever. She sent one from every ten of her entire population, to help preserve it, in the War of the Rebellion. She would have sent them all before surrendering that for which she fought so long and hard to obtain. We are met to-day to celebrate the great event of one hundred years ago. No artist's pen can draw the picture sharper to the life, no lips can more eloquently make the description than the pen and lips of Edward J. Phelps, whom I now have the honor of introducing:

ORATION OF MR. PHELPS. —

Vermont consecrates to-day her first historic monument. But not hers alone. New Hampshire and Massachusetts, who fought with her and for her at Bennington, have joined in erecting this memorial of their common history. And they are here, by a splendid representation, to share in the triumph of its completion, and to give to the occasion, by the distinction of their presence, a higher dignity, a more generous grace.

The day has a still larger significance. It is trebly fortunate. It marks not only the anniversary of the battle, and the happy consummation in this structure of the exertions of fifteen years, but likewise the centennial of the entrance of Vermont into the Federal Union. It unites in its suggestions the great memories and the great hope in the life of our commonwealth, the expiring century and the limitless future. It is fit that we should signalize such an occasion. Well may Vermont throw open this day her gates and her heart. Well may she call her children home. And with a display uncommon to her simple life, with trumpets, and banners, and acclamations, and the triumphant voice of cannon, offer unbounded welcome to the great concourse that has gathered to her festival.

It is appropriate and gratifying that the Chief Magistrate of the Nation should be at such a time our most honoured guest. In this scene, party differences are forgotten. We are only Americans. And in loyalty to that great office, and respect for the incumbent who fills it so well, we are all this day on the President's side.

History is full of battles. All its pages are stained with blood. Instruments, for the most part, of ambition, of tyranny and of crime. It would have been well for the world to be spared the misery they wrought. It would be well for its history if their memory could perish. But there have been battles nevertheless whose smoke went up like incense; consecrated in the sight of Heaven by the cause they maintained. Such was that for which this shaft shall henceforth stand.

If battles were to be accounted great in proportion to the numbers engaged, Bennington would be but small. In comparison with Marathon, and Waterloo, and Gettysburg, it was in that view only an affair of outposts. But it is not numbers alone that give importance to battle fields. The fame of Thermopylæ would not have survived, had the Greeks been a great army instead of three hundred. It is the cause that is fought for, the heroism and self-sacrifice displayed, and the consequences which follow, moral and political as well as military, that give significance to conflicts of



L. L. Phelps²⁸
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arms. Judged by these standards, Bennington may well be reckoned among the memorable battles of the world.

It was, on our side, the people's fight. No government directed or supplied it; no regular force was concerned; it was a part of no organized campaign. New Hampshire sent her hastily embodied militia, not the less volunteers. In Vermont and Massachusetts it was the spontaneous uprising of a rural and peace-loving population, to resist invasion, to defend their homes, to vindicate their right of self-government. Lexington, Bunker Hill, and King's Mountain were in this respect its only parallels in the Revolutionary war.

The march of Burgoyne from Canada to the Hudson, had been till then a continuous victory. He was a brave and skilful soldier, leading a well appointed and powerful army. Ticonderoga, the key and stronghold of the northern frontier, had fallen unexpectedly without a blow. The Vermonters retreating thence had been overtaken and utterly defeated at Hubbardton. The advance of the British to Stillwater had been almost unopposed; and there was as yet no promise of effectual resistance. Even Washington, steel proof against despair, wrote that he saw not how Burgoyne's march to Albany could be checked.

The situation of the inhabitants of the Hampshire Grants was most critical. Their whole frontier was open to the incursions of an enemy whose allies were savages. They had been totally neglected by Congress; not a step had been taken for their relief. Scattered sparsely through the country upon their farms, without any organized state government, almost destitute of the material of war, except the firearms in their houses, they still had no thought of flight or submission. They called upon God first, in a day of fasting and prayer, appointed by their Convention, and not only appointed but solemnly kept. And then they called upon New Hampshire and John Stark. New Hampshire, ablaze with patriotic feeling, issued instant orders for her militia to march. Stark's reply was brief, for he was not a man of words: "I am on the way," said he, "with all the men I can muster." With the eye of a born soldier he saw that the Vermonters were right when they declared, that there could be no frontier but a frontier of armed men. That the Hampshire Grants must be held, because no enemy could be resisted to whom the gates of the country were thus thrown open. And that the effectual blow against Burgoyne must be struck on his flank.

Full justice has been done, in history and tradition, to the bravery and the patriotism of John Stark. But his great qualities as a general and a leader of men have not been set forth as they

deserve. No better piece of military work was seen in the Revolution, than he did in that brief and sudden campaign. He concentrated the scattered militia at Charlestown, with a rapidity that was marvellous. He was impeded by the want of the most necessary and ordinary supplies. Detained, he wrote, for lack of bullet moulds; "but one pair in town"; for they had their own bullets to cast; destitute, he wrote again, even of camp kettles; striving in vain to get three or four field pieces mounted; the powder he had depended upon, half spoiled. Yet receiving his orders the 22nd of July, while the militia were all at their homes, he marched with the last of them from Charlestown, on the 3d of August. On the 7th he was at Manchester, through the wilderness and across the Green Mountains, by incapable roads, and without any adequate transportation. On the 9th he was at Bennington, with his own forces and the Massachusetts and Vermont men organized and in hand. On the 14th he engaged the enemy; on the 16th the battle was fought. If there had been no battle at all, such celerity and precision of movement, with an irregular force, in the face of such difficulties, would alone have been generalship of the highest order.

At Manchester he was met by a peremptory order from Congress, to march at once to join Schuyler, leaving the Grants to their fate. He refused to obey it. The cause was more to him than Congress, and he understood its necessities better than they did. On the 19th, three days after the battle, but before the news of it had reached them, that body adopted a resolution that his conduct was prejudicial to discipline, and injurious to the common cause, and demanding of New Hampshire to revoke the orders under which he was acting. Three days later, they sent him a vote of thanks, their only contribution to the victory that caused the destruction of Burgoyne.

Meanwhile the men of the Grants had not been idle. Every nerve had been strained in their own behalf. The Council of Safety, improvised for the occasion, sat continuously at Bennington, assuming all the powers of government. Every available man turned out. No woman bid husband, son or brother stay. Such scanty supplies as by the utmost exertion could be collected, were thrown into the common stock. The very day before the battle, expresses were sent out through the farm-houses to gather lead, "urgently needed," said the Council. The woods were on fire. Not with the transient blaze that sweeps through the dry leaves and is gone, but with the deep unquenchable combustion that burns in the roots and the earth.

Of the stores that had been previously gathered at Bennington,

much has been said, and but little is known. Their importance has probably been exaggerated. That Burgoyne needed them, such as they were, and desired still more to deprive his enemy of them, may be true. But they were by no means the principal object of the expedition he sent out, altogether disproportioned to so small a matter. He saw as clearly as Stark did, that his left was the dangerous quarter. It was not the feeble resistance before him that he was afraid of, which had not yet fired an effectual shot. It was what he well called "The gathering storm that was hanging on his left." He perceived that he must strike a blow in that quarter which would put down opposition, and make safe his flank and his rear. He meant to mount his dismounted dragoons on horses obtained in the Grants, and to occupy and secure that ground. The troops he sent out were therefore choice and well commanded, and followed by a strong support. And their orders were, not merely to capture Bennington, but to cross the country to Rockingham, and thence march to Albaay, a movement that would have brought them into Schuyler's rear.

The British commander proceeded with the caution the importance of his expedition demanded. When he found that he must fight, and perceived the resolute and thorough soldiership of Stark's movements, he chose a position with excellent judgment, entrenched himself strongly, and placed his troops and his guns to the best advantage. Stark could not wait as he would have done, for his enemy's advance. He was unable to subsist his ill-provided forces long, nor could he keep them from homes that were suffering for their presence. His only chance was to attack at once; and his dispositions for it, most ably seconded by Warner, his right hand man, were masterly beyond criticism. He had no artillery, no cavalry, no transportation, no commissariat but the women on the farms. Half of his troops were without bayonets, and even ammunition had to be husbanded. He lacked everything but men, and his men lacked everything but hardihood and indomitable resolution. Upon all known rules and experience of warfare, the successful storming, by a hastily organized militia, of an entrenched position at the top of a hill, held by an adequate regular force, would have been declared impossible. But it was the impossible that happened, in a rout of the veterans that amounted to destruction. History and literature, eloquence and poetry have combined to enshrine in the memory of mankind, those decisive charges, at critical moments, by which great battles have been won, and epochs in the life of nations determined. I set against the splendour of them all, that final onset up yonder hill and over its breastworks,

of those New England farmers, on whose faces desperation had kindled the supernatural light of battle which never shines in vain. That conflict was the last hope of the Hampshire Grants. They were fighting for all they had on earth, whether of possessions or of rights. They could not go home defeated, for they would have had no homes to go to. The desolate land that Burgoyne would have left, New York would have taken. Not a man was on the field by compulsion, or upon the slightest expectation of personal advantage or reward. The spirit which made the day possible, was that shown in Stephen Fay of Bennington, who had five sons in the fight. When the first-born was brought home to him dead, "I thank God," he said, "that I had a son, willing to give his life for his country."

Such, in merest and briefest outline, was Bennington. Its story, imperfectly preserved, comes down to us only in flashes, but they are flashes of glorious light. Its consequences were immediate and far reaching. It was the first success of the Revolution which bore any fruit. Its guns sounded the first notes in the knell which announced that the power of Great Britain over the colonies she had created and had sacrificed, was passing away. Burgoyne heard it, and knew what it meant. Washington heard it, and hearing took heart again. Confidence replaced despair. Gates succeeded Schuyler in command at Saratoga, and the militia poured into his camp. The invincibility of the British commander was gone. He fought desperately but in vain. On the 17th of October he surrendered.

If Bennington had not been fought, or had been fought without success, the junction between Clinton and Burgoyne could not have been prevented, and his surrender would not have taken place. "If I had succeeded there," he wrote to his Government, "I should have marched to Albany."

But Bennington was only an episode in the early life of Vermont. Striking, heroic, conspicuous, yet still but an episode. The outbreak of the Revolution found the people of the Hampshire Grants already engaged in a contest with the powerful Colony of New York, which had for ten years taxed their utmost resources. The first to occupy the unbroken wilderness which is now Vermont, they had taken and paid for their titles to the lands, as a part of the Colony of New Hampshire, under regular grants from its Governor, as vicegerent of the British Crown. They had organized townships, built roads, cleared forests, and established their homes. Up to that time the territory had been universally regarded as a part of New Hampshire, and the early maps so laid it down. New



Jose Manjfr.

York for more than a hundred years from the date of her charter, had attempted no jurisdiction over it. But after the New Hampshire Grants had been made and occupied, New York set up the claim that her eastern boundary was the Connecticut River. The line between that Province and New Hampshire was so loosely defined in the charters, issued when the geography of the country was almost unknown, that it was impossible to be determined by their language. The charters were in fact conflicting. The greater influence of New York, and her better means of prosecuting her case before the Privy Council, obtained from the Crown, in 1764, an order establishing the Connecticut as the dividing line. But this was only the arbitrary adjustment of a boundary, incapable of other settlement. Its legal effect was prospective, not retroactive. It established jurisdiction, it did not invalidate titles previously vested, under which a prior and adverse possession existed, and which had been derived from the common source of title, the King, of whom the contesting governors were alike the agents, and while the territory was *de facto* a part of New Hampshire. Nor was it the intention of the Crown or of the Privy Council that it should have such an effect. When in 1767, three years later, the settlers, resisting the efforts of New York to confiscate their lands, succeeded by great exertions in bringing the case again before that body, upon its unanimous and emphatic judgment, further grants by New York of lands granted by New Hampshire prior to 1764, were positively prohibited by the King.

Notwithstanding this explicit order, the Colonial Government of New York continued to make grants, in large quantities, of lands occupied adversely under the New Hampshire titles, without the least regard to the rights of the inhabitants, or the distressing consequences in which they would be involved. These grants were made not to settlers, but to speculators and political favourites, upon payment of enormous fees to the Governor. Not even compensation was offered for the improvements which had given the lands all the value they had, rescued them from the savage and the wild beast, and made them habitable by man. No greater outrage had been attempted under the forms of English law, since the days of Jeffries. It would not only have been in violation of fundamental principles if it had been done by the Crown, but it was in direct contravention of the orders of the Crown, based upon the judgment of the Privy Council.

The occupants of the Hampshire Grants had no means of legal resistance. They were without money, without counsel, without influence. They made one effort at defence in a suit tried at

Albany, but soon found they had no justice to expect in that quarter. Then they set the authority of New York at defiance, and resolved to protect themselves. Sheriffs who came into the Grants to execute writs, were turned back. Militia sent to support them, were repulsed. Rights which the law should have defended, were maintained by force.

But with the first guns of the Revolution, the people of the Grants threw themselves into that struggle, without regard to its effect upon the contest, to them much more important, in which they were already engaged. Ticonderoga was taken by Ethan Allen, and Crown Point, by Warner. They marched in force upon the disastrous expedition against Canada, where Allen was left a prisoner. They turned out on the approach of Burgoyne to garrison Ticonderoga, in such strength that men enough were not left at home to transport the supplies, which out of their slender resources they poured into that fortress. They were with Arnold in his desperate battles on Lake Champlain. They fought under Warner at Hubbardton before Bennington, and with Gates at Bemis Heights and Saratoga afterward. They pursued the British who retreated from Ticonderoga after Burgoyne's surrender, capturing the last prisoners, and firing the last shots at the remains of that expedition.

When the authority of Great Britain was thrown off by the Declaration of Independence, the organization of a separate government by the inhabitants of the Grants became unavoidable. The jurisdiction of New Hampshire over them had ceased after the Royal order of 1764, and with New York they were at war. As early as July 1776, in Convention assembled at Dorset, they adopted articles of association for the purposes of the war as well as of domestic government. In January 1777 they resolved to form an independent state under the name of New Connecticut, declaring it to be necessary for protection against the British, as well as against New York. In June 1777 a committee was appointed to draft a constitution, and the name of Vermont was adopted. In July following, the constitution was ratified, and at the first election held under it, Thomas Chittenden was made Governor.

That first constitution of Vermont can not be read without admiration. I pity the man who in view of the time and the circumstances of its composition, can read it without sensibility. Framed by a rural people, in hardship and poverty, a foreign enemy at their very gates, a still more inveterate foe in the sister province that should have been their protector, its authors neither statesmen nor lawyers, untrained in political science or literary

accomplishment, but one of them having ever sat in a legislative assembly before, they were still doing their best under every discouragement, with such slender acquirements as they had, toward the foundation of a government that might command the respect of mankind. The constitution of Pennsylvania, adopted the year before, was doubtless in a considerable degree their model. But there was much in their work that was original. And it displayed a breadth and elevation of view, a profound sagacity, an independence of thought, and a sublime faith, not reasonably to be looked for in such an assembly. It would be an interesting task to review this constitution, if the flying hour allowed. Two or three points only can be most briefly touched.

It contained the first prohibition of slavery ever put forth on this continent, through all parts of which the institution was at that time legal. The language is worthy of quotation :

“That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights; amongst which are the enjoying and defending of life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property; and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety. Therefore, no male person born in this country or brought from over sea, ought to be holden by law to serve any person as a servant, slave or apprentice, after he arrives to the age of twenty-one years; nor female in like manner after she arrives to the age of eighteen years; unless they are bound by their own consent after they arrive to such age; or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs or the like.”

I may pause to read one other paper on the same subject, that has found its way down to us like a scattered leaf from the foliage of a departed year. When in November 1777 a slave woman and her child fell into the hands of a company of Vermonters, commanded by Ebenezer Allen, who had fought with great distinction at Bennington, he gave her this writing, and set her free :

“To whom it may concern, know ye: whereas Dinah a negro woman, with her child of two months old was taken prisoner on Lake Champlain with the British troops the 12th day of inst. November by a scout under my command; and according to a resolve passed by the Honorable Continental Congress that all prizes belong to the captivators thereof: I being conscientious that it is not right in the sight of God to keep slaves: therefore obtaining leave from the detachment under my command to give her and her child their freedom. I do therefore give the said Dinah and her child their freedom, to pass and repass anywhere through the United States of America, with her behaving as becometh, and to trade and traffic for herself and child, as though she were born free, without being molested by any person.

“In witness whereunto I have set my hand and subscribed my name,

“EBENEZER ALLEN,

“Capt. in Col. Herrick’s Regt. of Green Mountain Boys.”

There is not much lawyership in the form of this document. It is neither elegant in style, nor faultless in orthography. But perhaps it has found record where such deficiencies are overlooked.

Another article in that first constitution should not be passed by in silence. Its authors appear to have seen with a prophetic eye when they founded free government, that its greatest danger was like to be the greed for office which turns places of public trust into the spoils of party, and the opportunities for plunder. And they adopted this clause :

“As every freeman to preserve his independence (if without a sufficient estate), ought to have some profession, calling, trade or farm whereby he may honestly subsist, there can be no necessity for nor use in establishing offices of profit, the usual effects of which are dependence and servility unbecoming freemen in the possessors or expectants, faction, contention, corruption and disorder among the people. But if any man is called into public service to the prejudice of his private affairs, he has a right to a reasonable compensation; and whenever an office through increase of fees or otherwise becomes so profitable as to occasion many to apply for it, the profits ought to be lessened by the Legislature.”

We have lived to see the prohibition of slavery in the earliest constitution of Vermont become a part of the fundamental law of this Nation. May the time be not far off, when its declaration against that other and more wide spread curse which corrupts and degrades free government, shall be likewise put in force by the body of the American people.

One more provision in this instrument may be quoted. From each representative in the Legislature was required, before taking his seat, this declaration :

“You do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the rewarder of the good and punisher of the wicked. And you do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine inspiration: and do own and profess the Protestant Religion.”

Under this constitution, Vermont already for thirteen years an independent community, became an independent State, subject to no National jurisdiction. She exercised from 1777 to 1791 all the powers of sovereignty, and maintained herself against New York, against Congress, and against the Union. She fought through the Revolution on her own account, and with the help of Massachusetts and New Hampshire defended herself. The State flag that still flies over us, was the flag of that earliest day. No other State in the American Federation save Texas, ever had an independent existence. All others were in their beginning either colonies of a foreign power, or territories of the United States. Till the very last, both during and after the Revolution, the majority of Congress



Respectfully
Yours
J. B. Field

was against her, swayed by the power and influence of New York. Represented neither in Congress nor in the Legislature of New York, and without means or influence to make herself felt in either body, recognition of her independence and her admission to the Union were continuously refused, and the title of her people to the homes they occupied denied. The contest of the Colonies in the Revolution was against taxation without representation. That of Vermont, through the war and for eight years afterward, was against confiscation without representation. No oppression charged upon Great Britain by America, approached that sought to be visited by Congress and New York upon Vermont, while she was fighting side by side with them to her last man and last dollar, in the struggle for National independence.

The history of the early life of Vermont is a grand and inspiring history. No words of mine in these brief moments can justly characterize it. We find it difficult at first, in trying to understand it, to raise ourselves to its plane, and to view it in the light of its own time rather than of ours. Accustomed to see self-interest predominant, and individual success the universal goal, we are involuntarily groping after motives and springs of action in the builders of our State, which had no existence among them. We do not rightly comprehend what they did, until we come gradually to realize the absolutely unselfish devotion, the genuine and unalloyed patriotism, the ardent love of liberty, of those plain, unassuming, upright, resolute, God-fearing men, who were striving to the uttermost, not for place or distinction or wealth or power, but to achieve self-government, to establish homes, to create civil institutions that should be truly free, salutary, and enduring. The more closely we study their lives and their work, the greater is our admiration for their character and their capacity.

In 1791 Vermont's long controversy reached an end. The justice of her cause gradually made itself felt, both in Congress and in the Legislature of New York. It came to be seen that her right to self-government ought not to be denied, nor her institutions overthrown, nor the lands of her people taken from them, and that such results could only be attained by a war of extermination. Her demands were finally conceded. An amicable adjustment was made with New York, and a hundred years of unbroken friendship between these neighbouring States has long obliterated all trace of the old-time bitterness. On the 18th of February, 1791, an Act unanimously adopted by Congress for the admission of Vermont to the Union, was signed by the hand of Washington.

So came Vermont at last, a hundred years ago, into the sister-

hood of the States. Latest of existing commonwealths to join it; first accession to the old Thirteen. No remnants of colonial magnificence adorned her approach. No traditions of old world aristocracy gave distinction to her presence, or grace to her society. No potency in National politics attracted the parasites of the hour. The luxuries of wealth were unknown to her. For the elegance of high culture she had found little opportunity. Rustic and shy, but picturesque, shadowed by the memories of a trying experience, unconquerable in spirit, proud of her untarnished history, half reluctant to surrender the independence that had cost so much, and been cherished so long. But she came to remain. She has sought no divorce from the Union to which on the altar of the new Constitution she then plighted her troth. When those who had been among the foremost in creating that Union, and should have been the last to assail it, yet essayed its destruction, thirty-four thousand of her young manhood, almost a tithe of her people, went out in its defence, and in all that wide-spread and terrible conflict, there was no battle ground on which her children are not buried. Her life, whether in peace or in war, through all the century that now closes upon us, has been not only in the Union, but for the Union. The high places, the distinctions, the ambitions, the emoluments of the National Government, have been chiefly for others; not for her. She has neither claimed them, nor sought them, nor desired them. Content to stand and to wait, and when service was demanded, never to be found wanting. Less abundant in production than lands that lie nearer the sun, she has been affluent in men; who have carried into other commonwealths the strength of her hills, and have fertilized by their intelligence, their energy, and their character, all the States whose gathering stars now fill to overflowing the field of the National ensign. It is not on this spot alone that these memories are revived. The sons of Vermont are not all here. The multitude that surrounds us is but a handful. In all the cities and hamlets of the Western plain, on savannah, and prairie, and river, and hill-side, in fields innumerable, golden with the harvest, wherever on this continent there is work to be done or enterprise to be carried forward, there they are, and there will this day and its ceremonies be remembered, and its inspiration felt.

And now, my fellow citizens, our task draws to its close. The public spirit and the persistent efforts of all these years have found their reward, in the structure that stands before us. Many, alas, how many, of those who in its foundation have shared our labours and guided our counsels, and who looked forward with us hopefully to their consummation, have not waited for this day, but

are gone on before. The circle that is left to exchange these congratulations, is painfully narrowed. But the work is done. Committing it now to the care of the State with whose existence we trust it will be coeval, our concern with it terminates, and our duty is discharged. Its stately proportions rise away from us into the upper air. Our monument no longer. Not for us nor for our time is it henceforth raised on high. Long before it shall cease to be reckoned as young, we and our children will have disappeared from the scene. It is our messenger to posterity. Here it shall wait for them, while the successive generations shall be born and die. Here it shall wait for them, through the evenings and the mornings that shall be all the days that are to come. Crowned with the snows of countless winters ; beautiful in the sunlight and the shadows of unnumbered summers ; companion of the mountains which look down upon it, whose height it emulates, whose strength it typifies, whose history it declares.

The earth is studded with monuments. From the earliest period of recorded time, mankind has striven for a language more durable than words, in which human memories might be perpetuated. They have found it chiefly in the symbolism of monumental architecture. But for the employment of that language there must be sentiments to be transmitted, worthy of its grandeur. In those lie the appeal to futurity, not in the medium of expression, however powerful or impressive. And therefore it is, that the most imposing and venerable of such structures known to the world, only stand silently over the grave of the dead past. They have no history to relate, no lesson to teach. Solitary relics of a race that is extinct, a civilization that has perished, institutions that have disappeared, cities and temples that have returned to the dust, to research and to imagination they are equally dumb. The desolation of the desert surrounds them. We regard them with wonder, but without instruction.

Not such the destiny of the memorial we dedicate here. Its grand silence shall be perpetually eloquent ; its teaching shall never cease. It shall carry forward the history of those early days ; of all that made Bennington heroic, and all that Bennington brought to pass. It shall tell the story not only of Stark and Warner and Chittenden, and Symonds, the Allens and the Fays and the Robinsons, and their compeers, but of that multitude of their humbler associates, less conspicuous, but just as devoted, who lived and who died for Vermont, whose names are only written in the memory of God. The child shall learn from these stones the first instincts of patriotism. The wayfarer to whose foreign ear our English tongue

conveys no sense, shall not fail of their meaning. And all the dwellers upon the soil, as the years go on, shall be reminded and admonished, what manner of man an American ought to be.

One final thought still presses upon us. We have recalled the past; what shall be the future? The gift of prophecy is mercifully withheld from man. Hope, kindlier than prophecy, stands in the place of it, the just and reasonable hope instructed by what has gone before. The emotions of this day raise us far above the jargon and turmoil of the poor quarrels of the hour, whose outcome we are wont to await with so much solicitude, and which seem to our impatient vision to oppose to us obstacles so dangerous. We look down upon them, and we see how temporary and ephemeral they are. We perceive that we need not on their account despair of the republic, which patriotism and devotion have more than once brought out resplendent from darker days than we shall ever know. Gazing forward, in the light of the after-glow of the dying century, we discern with the eye of faith and of hope, what this sentinel pile shall look out upon, in the days that are before it.

It will look out upon Vermont: on whose vallies and hillsides the seed time and the harvest shall never fail. A land to which its people shall still cling with an affection not felt for the surface of the physical earth, by any but those who are born among the hills; hallowed to them as to us by its noble traditions; sacred for the dead who rest in its bosom. The beautiful name which the mountains have given it will abide upon the land forever. Vermont, always Vermont!

And it will behold a society, where the great principles of civil and religious liberty shall be slowly but certainly working themselves out, to their final maturity. A prosperity, more and more widely diffused among common men. An advancing civilization, not without the vicissitudes, the blemishes, the mistakes, the sorrows, through which humanity's path must always lie, but in which the gain shall still surpass the loss, and the better surmount the worse; enlightened, from generation to generation, by an increasing intelligence, a broader knowledge, a higher morality; alleviated and illuminated, as it was in the beginning, by the inexhaustible blessing of our fathers' God.

After an intermission of a few minutes, during which the band discoursed appropriate music, Judge Veazey presented the President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, alluding to the honor which he conferred upon the occasion by his presence, and assuring him that he was surrounded by a concourse of people whose hearts were as loyal to him and the country as were those in the breasts of



Benjamin Harrison

his soldiers who had followed him so often upon the battlefields of the Republic.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT HARRISON. —

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:—There are several obvious reasons why I should not attempt to speak to you at this time. This great audience is so uncomfortably situated that a further prolongation of these exercises cannot be desirable, but the stronger reason is that you have just listened, with rapt attention, to a most scholarly and interesting review of those historical incidents which have suggested this assemblage, and to those lessons which they furnish to thoughtful and patriotic men. (Applause.) A son of Vermont, honored by his fellow citizens, honored by the Nation which he has served in distinguished public functions, honored by the profession of which he is an ornament and an instructor, has spoken for Vermont (applause); and it does not seem to me fit that these golden sentences should be marred by any extemporaneous words which I can add. I come to you under circumstances that altogether forbid preparation. I have no other preparation for speech than this inspiring cup of good-will which you have presented to my lips. (Applause.) The most cordial welcome which has been extended to me to-day makes it unfitting that I should omit to make a cordial acknowledgment of it. Perhaps I may be permitted, as a citizen of a Western State, to give expression to the high regard and honor in which Vermont is held. Perhaps I may assume, as a public officer, representing in some sense all the States of the Union, to bring to-day their appreciation of the history and people of this patriotic State. Its history is unique, as Mr. Phelps has said. The other Colonies staked their lives, their fortunes and honor upon the struggle for independence, with the assurance that if, by their valor and sacrifice, independence was achieved, all these were assured. The inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants alone fought with their fellow-countrymen of the Colonies for liberty, for political independence, unknowing whether, when it was achieved, the property, the homes upon which they dwelt, would be assured by the success of the confederate Colonies. They could not know—they had the gravest reason to fear—that when the authority of the confederation of the States had been established, this very Government, to whose supremacy Vermont had so nobly contributed, might lend its authority to the establishment of the claims of New York upon their homes; and yet, in all this story, though security of property would undoubtedly have been pledged by the royal representative, Vermont took a conspicuous, unselfish and glorious part in the independence of the United Colonies, trust-

ing to the justice of her cause for the ultimate security of the homes of her people. (Applause.)

It is a most noble and unmatched history; and if I may deliver the message of Indiana, as a citizen of that State, and as a public officer the message of all the States, I come to say "Worthy Vermont." (Cheers.) She has kept the faith unflinching from Bennington to this day. She has added, in war and peace, many illustrious names to our roll of military heroes and of great statesmen. Her representation in the National Congress, as it has been known to me, has been conspicuous for its influence, for the position it has assumed in committee, and in debate, and, so far as I can recall, has been without personal reproach. (Cheers.) We have occasionally come to Vermont with a call that did not originate with her people, and those have been answered with the same pure, high public consecration to public duty as has been the case with those who have been chosen by your suffrages to represent the State, and I found when the difficult task of arranging a Cabinet was devolved upon me that I could not get along without a Vermont stick in it (laughter and applause), and I am sure you have plenty of timber left in each of the great political parties. (Cheers.) The participation of this State in the War of the Rebellion was magnificent. Her troops took to the fields of the South that high consecration to liberty which had characterized their fathers in the Revolutionary struggle. (Applause.) They did not forget, on the hot savannas of the South, the green tops of these hills, ever in their vision, lifting up their hearts in faith that God would again bring the good cause of freedom to a just issue. (Applause.) We are, to-day, approaching the conclusion of a summer of extraordinary fruitfulness. How insignificant the stores that were gathered at Bennington, in 1777, compared with these great storehouses bursting with fulness to-day. Our excess meets the deficiency of Europe, and a ready market is offered for all our cereals. We shall grow richer by contributions which other countries shall make as they take from our storehouses the food needed to sustain their people. But after all, it is not the census tables of production or of wealth that tell the story of the greatness of this country. Vermont has not been one of the rich states of the Union in gold and silver, and its lands have not given the returns that some of the fertile riversides of the West yield. There have been here constant effort and honest toil; but out of all this there has been brought a sturdy manhood, which is better than riches, on which, rather than upon wealth, the security of our country rests. (Applause.) I beg you to accept my sincere thanks again for the



Philipp Rinn

evidence of your friendliness, and my apology that the conditions are not such as to enable me to speak as I could wish. (Cheers.)

After further music the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D.

AN EXPRESSED OPINION. — The literary exercises were of a high order, voluminous and faultless. Judge Veazey was at his best. The Invocation by Rev. Dr. Parkhurst, of Boston, a native of Sharon, in this State, was able, concise and appropriate. Governor Page spoke both times with exceeding good taste and judgment, and the able President of the Association, ex-Governor Prescott, is always entertaining.

The oration by Mr. Phelps is a masterly production, and, no doubt, will be regarded by many people as the climax-piece of that distinguished gentleman's oratory. It is plain to be seen that it was prepared with much research and care, and perfected in study. It is a beautiful tribute to Vermont, and by one of her most richly endowed sons; fascinating in its construction, and was the gem of perfection in delivery — the product of genius and a patriotic heart. The oration may be likened to a picture of the tree of liberty, firmly rooted in the rich soil of freedom, with its sturdy trunk, stalwart form, beautiful foliage, and with flowers shooting out from every branch and stem.

President Harrison's address at the Monument will take rank with his best efforts, and his later remarks at the Banquet were the feature of the occasion. The President indulges in but little by-play of words, and is a matter-of-fact man, rich in the memory of events and the profitable lessons to be derived from them. He is thoroughly patriotic and American in his notions and beliefs, anxious only that he may be of service to his countrymen. He not only entertains his hearers, but never fails to interest them in the presentation of matters in which they are also interested, though speaking on the spur of the moment and at off-hand.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT. — The Architect of the Battle Monument was Mr. J. Philipp Rinn, of Boston, who furnishes the following description of the structure, especially for this volume:

The Bennington Battle Monument is located in Monument Park, the terminal of Monument avenue, which runs nearly due North and South over the promontory, known as State-Arms Hill, projecting into the valley of the Walloomsac at Centre Bennington. This promontory has an altitude, from the valley below, of two hundred and eighty-five feet. At its summit and North-easterly brow, where the ground falls off abruptly, towers the Monument (306 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches), darkly up against the sky, with which the

blue-grey magnesian lime-stone (Dolomite), shaft harmoniously blends. The light ever varying the tones and shades, and inspiring the modellings and texture of the rock-face stone of which the monument is constructed. Being thus placed prominently on the elevation referred to, in the midst of this extended valley and surrounded by mountains of various rolling forms and altitudes, the structure, with its broad and massive, but softly curved lines, and the strong color-effect of its material, comports with the landscape as a whole, but making itself strongly felt in this exceptionally grand landscape of which it forms a part.

The monument is thirty-seven feet square where it springs from the grass-covered ground, and with a gradually diminishing curve sweeps upward to the height of one hundred and sixty-eight feet, where a horizontal belt eight feet high, and a second thirteen feet high, eleven feet above the first, slightly interrupt its upward curve. From this point the next one hundred and one feet, ten and one-half inches, are uninterrupted, but diminish more rapidly on nearing the apex. The stone work is surmounted by a bronze-roddeed hood and gilt star, the ten points of which are each eighteen inches long. The rod and star together measure four feet six inches high, thus constituting the dimension given. This metal star acts as a lightning rod point and is connected with the lightning rods, through the cope-stone, which run down the inner walls of the shaft.

The belts or entablatures mentioned embellish the openings of the grand Look Out and Ante Room below it. These openings and windows are grouped in two tiers, being pierced as it were into the shaft, forming piers toward the right-angled corners, and square columns between the openings. The caps of the columns and piers are formed by the openings extending into the entablatures, thus the contour lines of the shaft are nearly undisturbed in their sweep from base to apex.

The twenty openings in the grand Look Out have double rows of columns in the thickness of the walls. Between the outer and inner columns are placed three round bronze bars, three inches in diameter, arranged horizontally one foot apart, which act as guards for these openings. The twenty windows in the Ante Room, directly underneath, have bronze sashes with plate glass, as have also the windows on the west side, and the eight windows in Entrance Hall. The nineteen, three-inch wide slots of various heights, in the upper part of monument are open for ventilation. The monument's foundation is built on a ledge of limestone, and is nine feet thick where it rests on the ledge and tapers upward. The walls of the superstructure are seven feet and six inches thick



Mr. H. Ward

where they rise from the foundation and gradually diminish to two feet at the apex finishing courses, and are built in courses of two feet rise for the first one hundred feet and less in rise upward. The twenty finishing courses have twenty inches rise and are two feet in depth. All the courses are in random lengths, and have dressed beds and builds and split-rock faces, except the entablatures and columns which are hammered.

The four right-angled corners have one-quarter inch cut draft lines, which impart delicate and firm outlines to the shaft. All the ashlar joints are set on line with the right-angled corner draft lines.

The entrance door opening and all other openings have hammered jambs, soffits, sills, and one-quarter inch face draft lines.

The entrance door is made in two parts of cast bronze, panelled and heavily moulded. The four upper panels have bronze grille work for the admittance of air.

The Entrance Hall is twenty feet square and thirty-nine feet high, the floor of which is of North River stone laid on iron beams, and has a basement underneath ten feet high.

This hall is lighted by eight long, narrow windows, and the walls are decorated with three stone tablets given by citizens from the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, which are lettered, respectively, in bold, raised block letters.

In the Monument are stairs, landings and floors which are constructed of wrought and cast iron. The stringers, beams and balusters are of wrought iron. The treads of stair and floor plates are of cast iron.

The ceiling of Entrance Hall is of iron and forms as it were a large landing for the stairs. Each flight of stairs is the length of a side of the inner walls of the shaft. Between the Entrance Hall and grand Look Out floor there are thirty-four flights in all, with a total of four hundred and seventeen steps, and three long landings which are the length of one side, in the middle of which are long and narrow windows.

The Ante Room is at the height of one hundred and sixty-eight feet and is connected with the grand Look Out floor by a winding iron stair. The grand Look Out Room is eighteen feet square, the floor of which is constructed of North River stone, resting on brick arches. A magnificent view of the battlefield and the surrounding country is obtained from this room.

The floor over the grand Look Out is reached by iron steps, which are encased in a drum, made of one-eighth inch bronze plates riveted together on an iron frame, which also protects from the

weather, the communication between the upper and lower parts of the shaft, but at the same time allows the air to pass freely through the entire structure. This drum which is provided with a door, also serves as a head-house to circular stair. From the floor just mentioned the top floor is reached by an iron ladder seventy-five feet high. At the level of this floor are eleven narrow openings, and a man-hole two feet square, which has a door made of bronze one-quarter of an inch thick. Through this opening the finishing courses of stone work can be examined.

THE BURGoyNE CAMP-KETTLE.— This interesting relic, which is suspended in the interior of the Monument, was captured with other camp equipage at the surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga, October 17, 1777, and is said to have been among the effects found at the General's headquarters. It is exactly the form of a church bell inverted, and is 34 inches in diameter across the top, and will hold about a barrel. It has three stout "peg" legs, about three inches in diameter and six inches long. The bottom is concaved about three inches. It has a pair of heavy ears, or handles, near the top, through which are openings large enough to put a long bar on each side, so it can be carried by four men or more, as a bier is carried. The same ears are to be used to suspend it by a chain to the limb of a tree, or under a tripod, when in use. It was for many years in the possession of parties at Castleton, Vermont, by whom its history was well-known, and was used for purposes incident to the requirements of a farm. It was several times cracked and mended, and at one time had a large piece, some 12 inches long and six inches deep, broken out of the upper edge. It had also a large hole burnt through the bottom.

The break in the edge of the kettle was repaired by substituting an artificial piece, and the hole in the bottom was, also, repaired by pouring in melted iron, and fusing the edges of the new and the old.

In 1877 the old war relic was owned by Selah H. Langdon, of Castleton, Vermont, who has since died, and his interest became vested in John J. Langdon of the same place. It was brought to Bennington, to be exhibited at the Centennial Celebration, in 1876, but arrived too late for such exhibition. It remained several months at the railway freight house in care of Mr. Frank C. White, then superintendent of the Bennington & Rutland Railway. At the suggestion of the Bennington Historical Society, at its next annual meeting, Colonel Olin Scott was appointed one of a committee to care for the old kettle, and it was by him taken from the railway station to his home where it was kept until Saturday,

August 15, 1891, when Colonel Scott removed it to the Monument, and suspended it in its present position inside the Monument, and above the first floor.

It bears the following inscription: "General Burgoyne's Camp-Kettle; captured October 17, 1777"; the false piece marked, "This is a piece"; and on one of the long narrow patches, "These patches melted in to repair the cracks and to hold the piece."

THE RETURN TO THE BANQUET. — It was 2.30, P. M., when the exercises at the Monument closed. They will long be remembered in the annals of the Green Mountain State. The divisions re-formed in proper order, with the carriages, and marched through Monument avenue, Main, and North streets, to Camp Vermont, arriving at 3.20, P. M., where the troops and other organizations were dismissed. The escorts and carriages went to the large tents near the Soldiers' Home, where the banquet was served.

CHAPTER IV.

THE DINNER, AND POSTPRANDIAL ADDRESSES.

THE BANQUET. — At a meeting of the Centennial Committees, held in Rutland, April 29, 1891, the popular character of the Banquet was determined, agreeable to the suggestion of Governor Page, and seconded by others. The price per plate was fixed at one dollar, and thenceforth all the efforts of the Committees (of which Judge Carney was President, and Chairman), had been directed to provide for the great number who were expected to dine with the Executive and the distinguished guests of the State. The prophecy of Governor Page, that "The people will want to go to the Banquet, and see and hear the prominent people to be present," was fully verified. The tables had been set for 3,500, but that number was insufficient to accommodate all who desired to participate in the festivities, although the large company was quietly and expeditiously seated, and pleasantly served. Before the speaking began a great number of persons from the outside were permitted to flock into the tent and occupy the space in the aisles. There were probably 5,000 persons present when the President was introduced.

The Banquet was served in two large tents, situated just a little North of West, a few rods from the front of the Soldiers' Home building, shown in the illustration. Between these two points played the fountain. This is the highest single-jet fountain on the globe, and has a registered height of 196 feet, although the column ends in spray at from 165 to 180 feet, depending upon the

air-currents. The higher fountain, situated in Europe, has side-jets supporting the main column, which this fountain has never had. The two tents occupied an area requiring 10,300 square yards of canvas, to cover. The larger tent was arranged to seat 2,400 people. Upon its South side, on a raised platform, 180 feet long, sat the President of the Day, the Orator, The President, Governors, and others, including those who spoke after dinner. The annex-tent was situated South and adjoining this platform, and was arranged for 1,100 plates. This plan allowed the practical throwing of both tents into one during the postprandial addresses, and conduced greatly to the comfort of the assembly.

The seats upon the raised platform ran lengthwise; those of the tents at right angles from these. The principal guests were seated in order of precedence of rank. At the tables in front of the State table were seated the visiting organizations and other invited guests. Two tables on the left were occupied by the Knights Templars. Next came the Vermont National Guard, then the Reception Committee, and next, near the center of the line, was the Press table. The two tables next in line were occupied by the Rhode Island and New Hampshire delegations. Next came the Massachusetts delegation at two tables, then Vermont guests at three tables, and the Patriarchs Militant at the two tables, on the right. On President Harrison's right was seated Secretary Proctor, and on his left was Governor Page, and others, as shown in detail in Part II., Chapter III., of this work.

The scene inside the banquet tents was one of brilliant beauty. Not only was the beauty and grace of the fair daughters of the Republic well-represented, but the decorations, the tables laid in snow-white linen, and even the arrangement of the china-ware and glassware—all contributed to make the tent interiors one of resplendent beauty, and most inviting. The huge poles holding up the vast canopy were garlanded with gladiolas, golden-rod and asparagus fronds. Gladiola filled hundreds of crystal *jardinieres* and converted the tables into a hower, greatly adding to the attractiveness of the scene. On the State table, the decorations were most elaborate. Along the front of the platform were potted plants and ferns. At the front of The President's place at the table was a high *epergne* filled with pink *la France* roses and smilax. There was another *epergne* in front of General Alger's place filled with phlox, Drummondi, asters and roses. There were *boutonnieres* of cut roses at each plate. That for The President was a dark pink. Over the center of the table where The President sat were two large flags. Sixteen thousand pieces of figured china were used in the



Chauncy W. Brownell Jr.

main tent, and four thousand pieces in the annex. There were five thousand pieces of silver-ware. For the State table a special dinner service of Sevres and old Delf-ware graced The President's seat. Three hundred young women, clad in white, volunteers of Bennington's daughters, acted as waitresses. Colored waiters served the Presidential party. Inasmuch as there were over 3,500 persons seated at the banquet tables there were no dinner cards.

The *menu* served consisted of *consomme* glace, salad of lobster, potatoes, sardines, dressed tomatoes, cold chicken, turkey, ham, tongue, lamb, veal, rolls, crackers, etc., cheese, almonds, frozen pudding; vanilla, strawberry and chocolate creams, and a great variety of fancy ices, tea and coffee. The Montpelier Military orchestra rendered a choice programme during the gastronomical part of the banquet. The music was much enjoyed by all present.

President Veazey, at 4.45, P. M., "rapped the tables to order," after lunch had been thoroughly discussed, and opened the post-prandial exercises by again introducing President Harrison, in the following felicitous manner: The voice of the President of the United States has, as you have had occasion to notice, been used up in the service, to use a military phrase. It will be difficult for him to use it any more to-day. It will be impossible for him to be heard by this great audience unless the utmost silence is preserved by all who are here present. He has kindly consented, notwithstanding the dilapidated condition of his voice, to stand up and say a single word to you this second time to-day, and I now have the honor of presenting The President once more. (Applause.) After the applause had subsided, and order had been restored,

THE PRESIDENT, IN RESPONSE, SPOKE AS FOLLOWS.—

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens.—Whatever temporary injury my voice has suffered was not at the hands of Vermont. (Laughter and applause.) New York is responsible. In Albany I spoke in the rain to a large assemblage. Perhaps, if it were worth while to trace this vocal infirmity further, I might find its origin at Cape May (laughter), for I think I started upon this trip with the elements of a cold, that has to some degree marred the pleasure which I had anticipated to-day. But, notwithstanding what my friend General Veazey has described as "the dilapidated condition" of my voice, I will respond to his request to say a word to you. I knew that General Veazey has been put in charge of the transportation lines of the country, but I did not expect to find him in charge of what the boys used to call the "cracker line." (Laughter.) It seems that his capacity for usefulness in the public service is so great and so diversified that you have called upon him

to conduct the exercises of this magnificent occasion. He is a most excellent Interstate Commerce Commissioner (applause), an honor to your State, and I have no criticism of him as President of the Day, except that he calls too much attention to me. (Laughter and applause.)

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It has been a source of strength to the Nation in its development in material things. It has furnished to literature and to invention some of the largest contributions; but more than all this it has done a great work for all the states, and especially those states of the West and North-west, in which its enterprising sons have found new homes, in establishing everywhere a love of social order and patriotic devotion to the Union of States. (Applause.) If we seek to find the institutions of New England that have formed the character of its own people and have exercised a stronger moulding influence than that of any other section upon our whole people, we shall find them, I think, in their temples, in their schools, in their town meetings, and in their God-fearing homes. (Applause.) The courage of those who fought at Bennington, at Concord, Lexington, Bunker Hill, and Saratoga, was born of a high trust in God. They were men, who, fearing God, had naught else to fear. That devotion to local self-government which originated and for so long maintained the town meeting, establishing and perpetuating a true democracy, an equal, full participation and responsibility in all public affairs on the part of every citizen, was the cause of the development of the love of social order and respect for law which has characterized your communities, has made them safe and comfortable abodes for your people. These migrations between the states have been to your loss, but there is now a turning back to these States of New England and to some of its unused farms, which I believe is to continue and increase. The migrations which you have sent into the South to develop its industries, to open its mines, to set up factories and furnaces, is doing marvellous work in

unifying our people. (Applause.) As I journeyed recently across the continent, this oneness of our people was strongly impressed upon me. I think these Centennial observances, which have crowded one upon another from Concord to the Centennial of the adoption of the Constitution, and the organization of the Supreme Court, have turned the thought of our people to the most inspiring incident in our history, and have greatly intensified and developed our love of the flag and the Constitution. (Applause.)

I do not believe there has been a time in our history when there has been a deeper, fonder love for the unity of the States for the flag that emblemizes this unity and for the Constitution which cements it. (Applause.)

I believe we have come to a time when we may look out to greater things. Secure in our own institutions, enriched almost beyond calculation, I believe we have reached a time when we may take a large part in the great transactions of the world. (Cheers.) I believe our people are prepared now to insist that the American flag shall be seen upon the sea (applause), and that our merchants and manufacturers are ready to seize the golden opportunity that is now offered for extending our commerce into the states of Central, and South America. (Cheers.) I believe that conservative views of finance will prevail in this country. (Applause.) I am sure discontent and temporary distress will not tempt our people to forsake those safe lines of public administration in which commercial security alone rests. (Applause.) As long as the General Government furnishes the money of the people for their great business transactions, I believe we will insist, as I have said before, that every dollar issued, whether paper or coin, shall be as good and be kept as good as any other dollar that issues. (Cheers.) The purity, the equality of what we call dollars must be preserved, or an element of uncertainty and of bankruptcy will be introduced into all business transactions. This I may say without crossing lines of division. How this end is to be attained I will not attempt to sketch, but I do not hesitate to say that I feel myself pledged, so far as in me lies, to maintain that equality between our circulating money that is essential to the perfect use of all. (Prolonged applause.)

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At the close of The President's remarks Judge John V. Carney, President of the "Citizens Committee of Fifty," of Bennington, was introduced to The President and presented him with a Souvenir medal, of solid gold, of the official pattern. These medals were struck in three metals, viz.: gold, one for President Harrison; bronze, for the President of the Day, the Executive Committees, State guests, etc.; silver, for the general public. The design included a red, white and blue badge, one and one-half inches in length, hanging from a milled-edge bar, one and one-half inches long, upon which was the word "Bennington," in raised letters. The centre-white had a bronze figure in Continental uniform, below which, running across the tri-colored ribbon, was the date: August 19, 1891. Pendant from the badge and bar, attached by three links, was the medal. This was the size of a silver dollar and bore upon its face, in a centre-panel, the figure of the Monument. Upon either side were the dates "1777," "1891." The circular inscription read as follows: "Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument." Obverse.—In an outer-circle which bore the words: "Centennial Celebration of the Admission of Vermont as a State," enclosed by a circle of stars, in a centre-field, was the State Coat-of-Arms of Vermont, resting upon a cluster of flags, supported by the two cannon captured at Bennington battle, below them the dates, "1791-1891." The medal was a neat affair, creditable to its designer, and a tasty personal decoration.

PRESENTATION OF THE SOUVENIR GOLD MEDAL.—

Mr. President.—Allow me, sir,—as the humble representative of your many friends in Bennington, who recognize in you the brave and patriotic soldier, the honest and eminent statesman, and the true Christian gentleman,—to present to you this Souvenir as a token of the respect in which you are held by the people of our historic town, trusting that, in future years, it may recall to your mind pleasant memories of this Centennial occasion.

May the Great Ruler, Who holds the destiny of peoples and Nations in his hands, grant you many happy years of usefulness, in



W. R. Russell

both public and private life. [The medal was pinned upon The President's coat.]

President Harrison, apparently much affected, replied in these words: "I thank you, sir, though a memorial was not needful to preserve in my heart grateful memories of this day."

Governor Russell of Massachusetts was the next speaker. In presenting him President Veazey referred to the fact that Massachusetts was at Bennington upon the greatest occasion in its history, in August 1777, and was, also, here at the great Centennial Celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the battle, in August 1877; and that she was again here on this occasion, — in the person of her young and eloquent Governor, and many other State officials, and civil and military organizations, — to participate with Vermont, and New Hampshire, in the observances of this day:

GOVERNOR RUSSELL'S SPEECH. —

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to give voice to the sentiment of friendship and of love that hallows and glorifies the Union of our sisterhood of States in one great, powerful, and permanent Nation. It adds to the pleasure when, as to-day, with this sentiment we can mingle our congratulations in recalling two great epochs in the history of a State when courage, patriotism and perseverance gave life and independence to her, greater safety and strength to her sister States, and to our common country a bright page in its glorious history.

Gladly I bring to you from the old Bay State her congratulations and her love, as the unanimous sentiment of her sturdy and patriotic children. This sentiment is but the natural, spontaneous feeling between States whose relations have always been those of amity, good-will and support, from the early days when these green hills had but begun to develop the life which a century ago matured in a free and independent State.

In her struggle with her nearest neighbors, who loved her quite too much to give her up, Vermont had all the sympathy Massachusetts could give without herself becoming embarrassed in her family relations. Long before Ethan Allen bore to astonished Ticonderoga the command of the "Continental Congress and the great Jehovah," yes, even before the days of Wolfe and Montcalm, Massachusetts looked to the brave sons of the Green Mountains as an insuperable barrier between her and her foes, a barrier tried and found true, a little later, in the victory we justly commemorate as the turning point in the dark days of our Revolution; and again tried and again true, a generation later, in McDonough's gallant victory on Lake Champlain.

Shoulder to shoulder stood Massachusetts and Vermont in those days of struggle and suffering; hand in hand have they walked since, sharing each other's joys and sorrows through the sunshine and the clouds which have broken over our fair Republic.

Massachusetts has a deep interest in this commemorative Monument. It recalls the valor of her sons; the union of all, heart and hand, for the common weal; the sacrifices of the fathers, for the liberty of the children; the beginning of a great Nation; the courage, patriotism and struggle which wrought its independence and founded free institutions that would insure to its people happiness and prosperity, and lead the world to a truer, nobler life. So the Mother States, as together they shared the labor of the victory, so together, generously, gratefully, they erect this Monument, that the struggle and victory may live forever. The acts of States, rather than the words of man, are the fitting tribute to brave deeds bravely done for love of country:

"Wut's words to them whose faith an' truth
 "On war's red teeshstone rang true metal;
 "Who ventured life an' love an' youth
 "For the great prize of death in battle?"

But to-day we commemorate not one event alone. A century ago Vermont, first of the great incoming sisterhood, took her place among what the poet calls the "stars of glory." Not large in territory, not significant in population, yet she has ever maintained in our Union a position of stability, influence, patriotism and power which have made her a potent factor in the well-being and progress of our Continental Republic.

To-day we think of her not alone as the Vermont whom Stark and Allen made famous, not alone as the pleasant land of hill and valley, but as the greater Vermont who has sent her children forth from ocean to ocean to build up the Nation, and to stamp upon it the sterling virtues of sturdy New England life.

The statistician will tell us that Vermont is stationary, that her population does not increase. Yes, she is stationary, as the family home is stationary, because those who have been born into it have gone forth from it, in obedience to the great law which God gave man, to subdue and replenish the earth. Her children have made her influence felt throughout the Union, because they have carried forth from the home the mother's teaching, the courage, strength and character which seem to be bone of her bone, and blood of her blood. It is her life rather than her size, her virtues rather than her riches, that have made her prominent and powerful. Here in this rugged, typical New England State have been exemplified the glowing words of our liberty-loving, undying, Lowell:

"Before man made us citizens, great Nature made us men."

So, as we stand to-day beside the rushing river of our prosperity, and strive to trace its sources, we find one of its clear and sparkling fountains amid the green hills of Vermont.

In their life and work, their character and virtues, their purposes and influence, Vermont and Massachusetts stand close together.

With mutual love and esteem each for the other, Massachusetts has never failed in her interest in Vermont, and especially in Bennington, from the day when Stark sent to our Commonwealth the trophies of his victory (still reverently preserved), and in return she voted him her thanks, a suit of clothes and a piece of linen, and again a century later made her generous contribution to this, his monument.

Our affection for our sister State is none the less if we do not settle within her borders, but cling with filial love to the old Bay State, and there, as here, enjoy the beauty, simplicity and vigor of our New England life.

In 1782 when John Adams was minister at The Hague, his wife in his absence purchased lands in Vermont and suggested a removal there at some future time. Our gifted minister, broken in health and worn in mind, wrote in despair: "What is to become of the independent statesman, one who will bow the knee to no idol, who will worship nothing as a divinity but truth, virtue and his country?" And then he exclaims "Oh, peace, when wilt thou permit me to visit Penn's hill, Milton hill, and all the Blue hills? I love every tree and every rock upon all those mountains. Roving among these will be the amusement of my declining years. God willing, I will not go to Vermont; I must be within scent of the sea."

So to-day, as the children of Vermont cherish with special love and reverence their native State, we, too, cannot forget our native hills and valleys and rock-bound coast, our Greylock, our Wachusett, our Berkshire and our Blue hills, around which are nestled so much of comfort, prosperity and happiness, and to which we longingly turn for rest and for peace. Much as we love and honor Vermont, we must say with John Adams: God willing, we will not go to Vermont; we must be within scent of the sea. But there it will be our pride and pleasure, as it is our blessed privilege, to do whatsoever we may to sustain the life and the principles which have made Vermont and Massachusetts alike the home of the happy and the brave.

The next speaker presented was Governor Tuttle, of New Hampshire, who spoke as follows:

GOVERNOR TUTTLE'S SPEECH. —

Responding to the call of Vermont, representatives of New Hampshire appear here to-day to unite with those of other States, and with those the National Government in the ceremonies of the dedication of this magnificent memorial shaft, Bennington Battle Monument, which shall stand before future generations in lofty grandeur, a constant reminder of the brave deeds and virtues of the men who fought for home and liberty on yonder hill, and of the momentous victory which they won.

On occasions like this it is well to listen with grateful interest, while the merits and sacrifices of our Revolutionary fathers are recounted, though we have read of them and heard of them again and again.

While white men have never fought with white men in war on the soil of New Hampshire, her sons have always been willing and prompt to march and to fight, whenever and wherever a State or common defence required their support. Moved by patriotic principle and profound sympathy for others, as well as by desire for self-protection, the New Hampshire men advanced beyond their frontier with no government control but their own, and assisted in repelling invaders in two great Revolutionary battles in New England. They chose not to defer action till forced to meet the shock of battle and to defend themselves from the ravages of war at home. When tidings of hostilities at Lexington, and Concord, reached New Hampshire, a large number of her patriots, seizing such arms as they possessed, rushed for the front. They marched without orders and without invitation. Almost 2,000 had reached the vicinity of Boston within the first three days. Two regiments were soon organized from these men. John Stark was unanimously chosen, by hand vote, Colonel of the First, and James Read became Colonel of the Second. Nothing connected with the battle of Bunker Hill appears from true historic record to be more definite, decisive and important than the part enacted in that unique conflict by these New Hampshire regiments, led, with entire independence of superior orders, by Stark as senior officer.

During the first year of the War of the Revolution the Colonial armies were mainly successful. But defeat, dissension, disease and disaster so modified their operations in the second year that little was gained to cheer the hearts of the friends of liberty and independence. The people, too, began to feel more keenly the effects of the war-draft on their resources. The daring, brilliant and victorious attack on the Hessians at Trenton, where Colonel Stark led the right wing of the advanced guard by the command of Washing-

main tent, and four thousand pieces in the annex. There were five thousand pieces of silver-ware. For the State table a special dinner service of Sevres and old Delf-ware graced The President's seat. Three hundred young women, clad in white, volunteers of Bennington's daughters, acted as waitresses. Colored waiters served the Presidential party. Inasmuch as there were over 3,500 persons seated at the banquet tables there were no dinner cards.

The *menu* served consisted of *consomme* glace, salad of lobster, potatoes, sardines, dressed tomatoes, cold chicken, turkey, ham, tongue, lamb, veal, rolls, crackers, etc., cheese, almonds, frozen pudding; vanilla, strawberry and chocolate creams, and a great variety of fancy ices, tea and coffee. The Montpelier Military orchestra rendered a choice programme during the gastronomical part of the banquet. The music was much enjoyed by all present.

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THE PRESIDENT, IN RESPONSE, SPOKE AS FOLLOWS. —

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens. — Whatever temporary injury my voice has suffered was not at the hands of Vermont. (Laughter and applause.) New York is responsible. In Albany I spoke in the rain to a large assemblage. Perhaps, if it were worth while to trace this vocal infirmity further, I might find its origin at Cape Mây (laughter), for I think I started upon this trip with the elements of a cold, that has to some degree marred the pleasure which I had anticipated to-day. But, notwithstanding what my friend General Veazey has described as "the dilapidated condition" of my voice, I will respond to his request to say a word to you. I knew that General Veazey has been put in charge of the transportation lines of the country, but I did not expect to find him in charge of what the boys used to call the "cracker line." (Laughter.) It seems that his capacity for usefulness in the public service is so great and so diversified that you have called upon him

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It is always a pleasure and a privilege to give voice to the sentiment of friendship and of love that hallows and glorifies the Union of our sisterhood of States in one great, powerful, and permanent Nation. It adds to the pleasure when, as to-day, with this sentiment we can mingle our congratulations in recalling two great epochs in the history of a State when courage, patriotism and perseverance gave life and independence to her, greater safety and strength to her sister States, and to our common country a bright page in its glorious history.

Gladly I bring to you from the old Bay State her congratulations and her love, as the unanimous sentiment of her sturdy and patriotic children. This sentiment is but the natural, spontaneous feeling between States whose relations have always been those of amity, good-will and support, from the early days when these green hills had but begun to develop the life which a century ago matured in a free and independent State.

In her struggle with her nearest neighbors, who loved her quite too much to give her up, Vermont had all the sympathy Massachusetts could give without herself becoming embarrassed in her family relations. Long before Ethan Allen bore to astonished Ticonderoga the command of the "Continental Congress and the great Jehovah," yes, even before the days of Wolfe and Montcalm, Massachusetts looked to the brave sons of the Green Mountains as an insuperable barrier between her and her foes, a barrier tried and found true, a little later, in the victory we justly commemorate as the turning point in the dark days of our Revolution; and again tried and again true, a generation later, in McDonough's gallant victory on Lake Champlain.

Shoulder to shoulder stood Massachusetts and Vermont in those days of struggle and suffering; hand in hand have they walked since, sharing each other's joys and sorrows through the sunshine and the clouds which have broken over our fair Republic.

Massachusetts has a deep interest in this commemorative Monument. It recalls the valor of her sons; the union of all, heart and hand, for the common weal; the sacrifices of the fathers, for the liberty of the children; the beginning of a great Nation; the courage, patriotism and struggle which wrought its independence and founded free institutions that would insure to its people happiness and prosperity, and lead the world to a truer, nobler life. So the Mother States, as together they shared the labor of the victory, so together, generously, gratefully, they erect this Monument, that the struggle and victory may live forever. The acts of States, rather than the words of man, are the fitting tribute to brave deeds bravely done for love of country:

"Wut's words to them whose faith an' truth
 "On war's red techstone rang true metal;
 "Who ventured life an' love an' youth
 "For the great prize of death in battle?"

But to-day we commemorate not one event alone. A century ago Vermont, first of the great incoming sisterhood, took her place among what the poet calls the "stars of glory." Not large in territory, not significant in population, yet she has ever maintained in our Union a position of stability, influence, patriotism and power which have made her a potent factor in the well-being and progress of our Continental Republic.

To-day we think of her not alone as the Vermont whom Stark and Allen made famous, not alone as the pleasant land of hill and valley, but as the greater Vermont who has sent her children forth from ocean to ocean to build up the Nation, and to stamp upon it the sterling virtues of sturdy New England life.

The statistician will tell us that Vermont is stationary, that her population does not increase. Yes, she is stationary, as the family home is stationary, because those who have been born into it have gone forth from it, in obedience to the great law which God gave man, to subdue and replenish the earth. Her children have made her influence felt throughout the Union, because they have carried forth from the home the mother's teaching, the courage, strength and character which seem to be bone of her bone, and blood of her blood. It is her life rather than her size, her virtues rather than her riches, that have made her prominent and powerful. Here in this rugged, typical New England State have been exemplified the glowing words of our liberty-loving, undying, Lowell:

"Before man made us citizens, great Nature made us men."

So, as we stand to-day beside the rushing river of our prosperity, and strive to trace its sources, we find one of its clear and sparkling fountains amid the green hills of Vermont.

In their life and work, their character and virtues, their purposes and influence, Vermont and Massachusetts stand close together.

With mutual love and esteem each for the other, Massachusetts has never failed in her interest in Vermont, and especially in Bennington, from the day when Stark sent to our Commonwealth the trophies of his victory (still reverently preserved), and in return she voted him her thanks, a suit of clothes and a piece of linen, and again a century later made her generous contribution to this, his monument.

Our affection for our sister State is none the less if we do not settle within her borders, but cling with filial love to the old Bay State, and there, as here, enjoy the beauty, simplicity and vigor of our New England life.

In 1782 when John Adams was minister at The Hague, his wife in his absence purchased lands in Vermont and suggested a removal there at some future time. Our gifted minister, broken in health and worn in mind, wrote in despair: "What is to become of the independent statesman, one who will bow the knee to no idol, who will worship nothing as a divinity but truth, virtue and his country?" And then he exclaims "Oh, peace, when wilt thou permit me to visit Penn's hill, Milton hill, and all the Blue hills? I love every tree and every rock upon all those mountains. Roving among these will be the amusement of my declining years. God willing, I will not go to Vermont; I must be within scent of the sea."

So to-day, as the children of Vermont cherish with special love and reverence their native State, we, too, cannot forget our native hills and valleys and rock-bound coast, our Greylock, our Wachusett, our Berkshire and our Blue hills, around which are nestled so much of comfort, prosperity and happiness, and to which we longingly turn for rest and for peace. Much as we love and honor Vermont, we must say with John Adams: God willing, we will not go to Vermont; we must be within scent of the sea. But there it will be our pride and pleasure, as it is our blessed privilege, to do whatsoever we may to sustain the life and the principles which have made Vermont and Massachusetts alike the home of the happy and the brave.

The next speaker presented was Governor Tuttle, of New Hampshire, who spoke as follows:

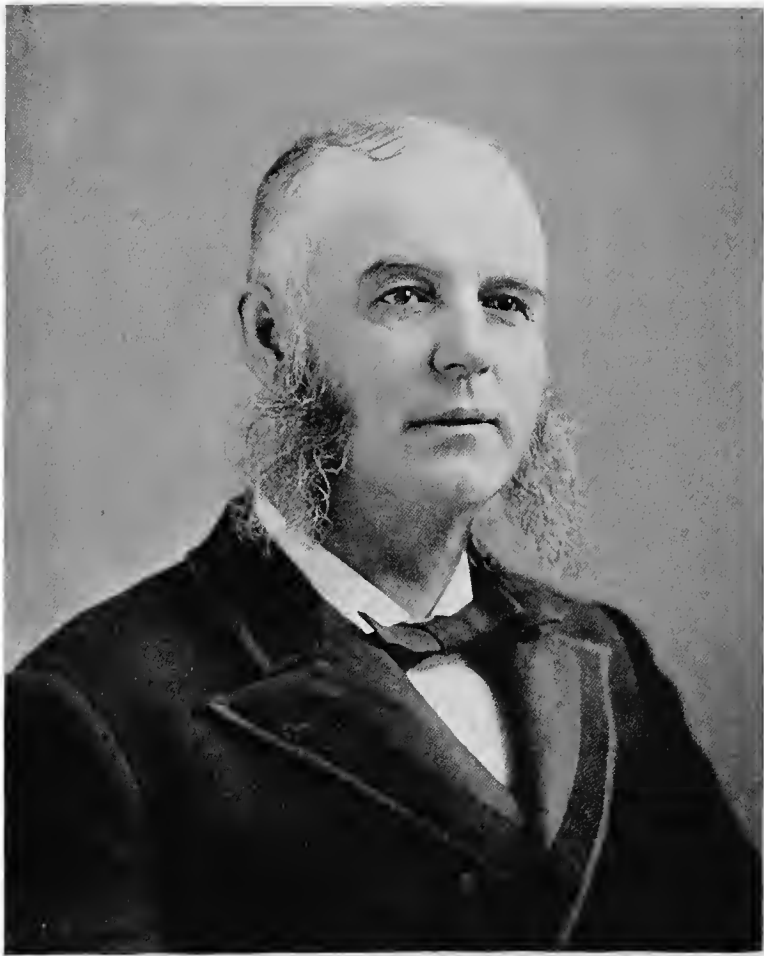
GOVERNOR TUTTLE'S SPEECH. —

Responding to the call of Vermont, representatives of New Hampshire appear here to-day to unite with those of other States, and with those the National Government in the ceremonies of the dedication of this magnificent memorial shaft, Bennington Battle Monument, which shall stand before future generations in lofty grandeur, a constant reminder of the brave deeds and virtues of the men who fought for home and liberty on yonder hill, and of the momentous victory which they won.

On occasions like this it is well to listen with grateful interest, while the merits and sacrifices of our Revolutionary fathers are recounted, though we have read of them and heard of them again and again.

While white men have never fought with white men in war on the soil of New Hampshire, her sons have always been willing and prompt to march and to fight, whenever and wherever a State or common defence required their support. Moved by patriotic principle and profound sympathy for others, as well as by desire for self-protection, the New Hampshire men advanced beyond their frontier with no government control but their own, and assisted in repelling invaders in two great Revolutionary battles in New England. They chose not to defer action till forced to meet the shock of battle and to defend themselves from the ravages of war at home. When tidings of hostilities at Lexington, and Concord, reached New Hampshire, a large number of her patriots, seizing such arms as they possessed, rushed for the front. They marched without orders and without invitation. Almost 2,000 had reached the vicinity of Boston within the first three days. Two regiments were soon organized from these men. John Stark was unanimously chosen, by hand vote, Colonel of the First, and James Read became Colonel of the Second. Nothing connected with the battle of Bunker Hill appears from true historic record to be more definite, decisive and important than the part enacted in that unique conflict by these New Hampshire regiments, led, with entire independence of superior orders, by Stark as senior officer.

During the first year of the War of the Revolution the Colonial armies were mainly successful. But defeat, dissension, disease and disaster so modified their operations in the second year that little was gained to cheer the hearts of the friends of liberty and independence. The people, too, began to feel more keenly the effects of the war-draft on their resources. The daring, brilliant and victorious attack on the Hessians at Trenton, where Colonel Stark led the right wing of the advanced guard by the command of Washing-



Hiram A. Tuttle

ton, and the short, sharp and triumphant fight with the British at Princeton, served for a time to revive the waning zeal of the people, and to restore confidence in the army.

The continued depressing outlook, which confronted the Colonists, in the summer of 1777, was greatly augmented by the near approach of General Burgoyne, in his advance from Montreal to Albany, in pursuance of the plan of separating New England from other Colonies by military methods. The abandonment of our largest fortress, Ticonderoga, July 6th, and the battle of Hubbardton on the following day, the quality of the invading army, made up of British and Hessian veterans, Canadians, Tories, and American savages, the menacing proclamations of General Burgoyne, and the wild rumors of Indian atrocities, notably the massacre of Jane McCrea, spread consternation among the inhabitants of Eastern New York, Vermont, and Western Massachusetts. The Council of Safety, of the new State of Vermont, sent supplicatory letters to Massachusetts, and also to New Hampshire. The latter reached their destination just after the Legislature had adjourned. It was, however, called together by the Committee of Safety, and favorably considered the entreaty from Vermont that troops be sent to their assistance. But New Hampshire was destitute of money and means, having reached the limit of its resources, as it was supposed, in furnishing troops. John Langdon, the patriotic merchant, then pledged much of his private fortune to replenish the empty treasury of the State, and the Legislature voted at once to raise and forward a brigade for the defence of this and the neighboring States, and appointed Colonel John Stark Brigadier-General to command it. Colonel Stark was at his home at this time, his sense of honor having compelled him to resign his commission when a junior officer was promoted over him to the rank of Brigadier-General, by Congress, with the idea that he was self-willed. He accepted the commission on condition that he should exercise his own judgment in commanding his troops and be accountable to, and take orders from, the authorities of New Hampshire and none other. He was very soon sending forward from Charlestown, the men who hastened to his standard, to Colonel Seth Warner, commanding the troops of the new State at Manchester, where he in a short time joined them. Here General Lincoln came with an order from General Schuyler to conduct the militia to Stillwater. General Stark, having explained to General Lincoln the relation of himself and his command, determined that the order should not be executed. For this action Congress censured him. Being informed of the intention of the enemy to capture the stores at Bennington,

Stark, accompanied by Colonel Warner, marched his forces to that town, having made arrangements for detachments to join him there. On August 14th the approach of the enemy was learned from Lieutenant-Colonel Gregg, of New Hampshire, who was detached with 200 men to discover him. General Stark immediately marched forth five miles and boldly offered battle, which was evaded by the unknown foe. Abundant rain prevented movements of the armies on the 15th, but troops arrived from Massachusetts, and the British forces spent the day in intrenching.

On the memorable and beautiful day, August 16th, General Stark, having made careful preparation and skilful disposition of his troops, in open field, with a few bayonets and no cannon, attacked and killed or captured or put to flight, in two engagements, some of the best veteran troops of Great Britain and Germany, thoroughly equipped and protected by cannon and breastworks. They achieved a victory of unsurpassed brilliancy, which, by its immediate and remote results, holds high place among the most important events in the annals of our country.

Although Congress had slighted and censured General Stark, within six months they made him a Brigadier-General in the army of the United States, and presented their thanks to him and the officers and troops under his command. Congress was compelled to do this to keep up with the procession of the applauding people.

A hundred and fourteen years, with all their mutations, separate us from those scenes. Lundy's Lane, and Jackson at New Orleans, Buena Vista and Chapultepec, Vicksburg, and Appomattox, and innumerable things, having exercised the interest, wonder and admiration of intervening generations, now belong to the historic past. But the influence of Bennington is still potent as the vast concourse here assembled attests.

Under the title: "Bennington Troops, 1777," in Volume II., of "Revolution Rolls," of New Hampshire, edited from original rolls with great care by the Official State Historian, are recorded the names, rank, terms of service (general average being about two months), with other details, of more than 1,500 New Hampshire men. Colonel George C. Gilmore, who has been a Special Commissioner to investigate such matters for the State, has published a volume entitled: "New Hampshire Soldiers at Bennington," in which he records the name, residence, regiment, rank, company, and date of enlistment of each of the 1,467 New Hampshire men who fought under Stark at Bennington. He omits from the official rolls all who died or left before, or enlisted after August 16, 1777, the date of the battle.



Oliver O. Howard
Major General
U.S. Army

Vermont has not a full official record of her troops, engaged in the Battle of Bennington, as I learn through one of her intelligent citizens. Estimates of their number must rest on the best information obtainable. It is certain that Colonel Seth Warner was there as a valued adviser of Stark. It is certain that Colonel Herrick was there with his Rangers arrayed in green, and it is certain that the "Green Mountain Boys" put every possible man and every possible musket into the fight. There is no doubt that the heroic clergyman from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Rev. Thomas Allen, came early and eager for the fight, and was effective therein, being accompanied by all the men that he could induce to follow him. Other troops came timely from Massachusetts to take part in the second engagement.

President Bartlett, in his Centennial address, says: "The plunder taken at Bennington was divided between 2,250 men": but some troops arrived soon after the battle was over.

The Bennington fight of General John Stark and his men from Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, with the motley forces of Baum and Breyman, may seem to be of small moment when compared with the tremendous struggles of the Great Rebellion, but it was essential in establishing the existence of the Nation, in its infancy, as the appalling battle of Gettysburg was essential in maintaining the life and unity of the Nation in its maturity.

New Hampshire congratulates the Government and people of Vermont, ever among the foremost in liberality and zeal, in honoring the memory of the benefactors of our country, on the measure and success of their efforts in effecting such a grand consummation of this great work, which commemorates an event that reflects honor on our State through the valor of Stark and his brigade.

New Hampshire would express her profound and grateful appreciation of the generous and persistent labors of the noble men who have caused and guided the erection of this Monument, which stands a memorial of the patriotism of the past, and represents to-day the patriotic gratitude, not only of three States but of the Nation.

Governor Hill was expected to be present, to respond in behalf of the State of New York, but being unable to attend President Veazey called upon Major-General Oliver Otis Howard, commanding the Department of the East, to speak for that State, his headquarters being at that time in New York:

GENERAL HOWARD'S REMARKS. —

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. — A few moments ago General Veazey crept around behind my chair and said: "The

Governor of New York is absent and we have no one to represent him and we don't know what to do. As you are from that State you will speak for Governor Hill, will you not?"

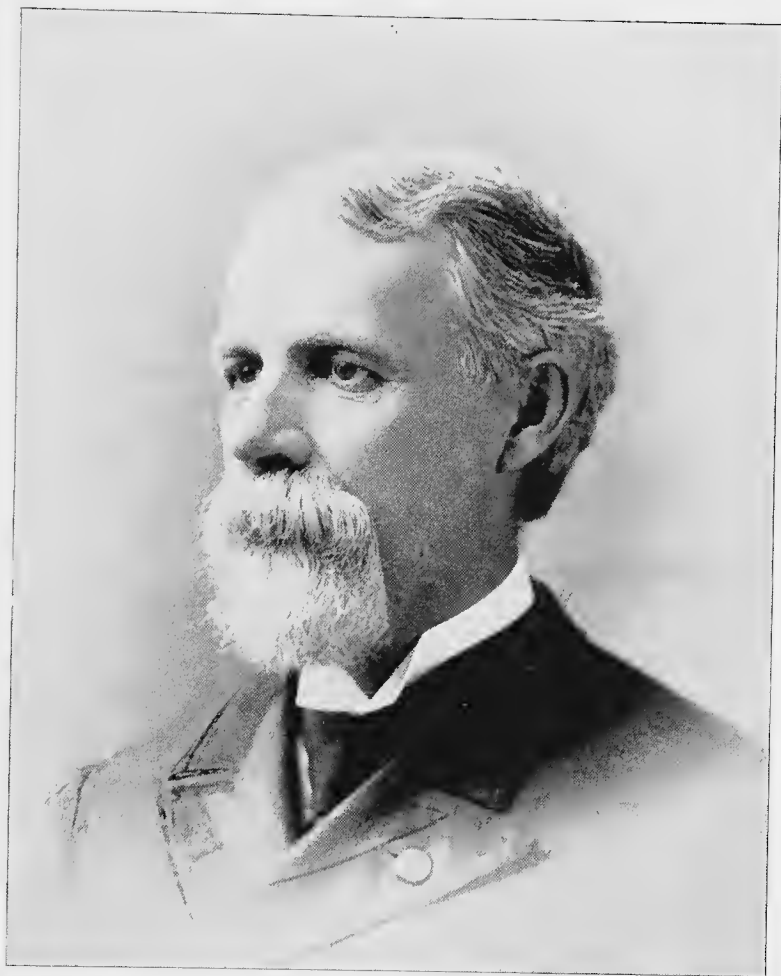
It struck me as amusing in the extreme to make me a substitute for the present Governor of the great State of New York, and yet, there appears to be some fitness in it, for I do come from that State, and belong to the City of New York; to the First Ward of the City, dwelling upon *Governor's* Island; and though denominated "a radical" I have always inclined to democratic in contradistinction to aristocratic ideas.

There has been a great deal said by the orator of the day and others, against us New Yorkers on this occasion; in short, it is represented that there was formerly a controversy that almost amounted to a war between the inhabitants of New York and the dwellers upon the plantations in these regions, but so patriotic were the "Green Mountain Boys" that they fought with ardor in the Revolution, to the end of that struggle, reserving the settlement with their New York enemies till the close of that war. In fact, they had to make, all the time, a front fight, and withstand a flank fire upon them.

Now a fair presentation of the matter will show that it was not the people of New York at all, even in those days of a corrupt and tyrannical Governor with avaricious surroundings, who, aided and abetted by those surroundings, had coveted the Vermont plantations or the "Hampshire Grants."

We would have the distinct understanding, and were Governor Hill here to-day he would assure you of the fact, that since those old days, things have greatly changed; that there are no longer tyrannical Governors, or avaricious surroundings; or if, perchance, the people find upon such occasions an abnormal condition of affairs at the capital of a State, the incumbents are soon after speedily voted out of the place.

To show that matters are not so bad as history presents, take a look at this magnificent, obelisk-like monument which Vermonters and New Hampshire men have combined to erect. But where did they get the substance of the structure itself, — the splendid stone of which it is made? Why! of course from the quarries within the State of New York. What could give a better basis of Union and settlement, gentlemen of the committee, than for you to furnish the money and New York the granite; and this settlement certainly is a little remarkable considering that New Hampshire itself and some portions of Vermont are made of granite. But in these days there is not only a common patriotism, but people make a common cause,



Arthur Legas

and have a common interest, mutual agreements, and *conspicuous reciprocity*.

Comrades of the Rebellion, for I see many of you before me to-day, I have improved the opportunity of meeting very many who are decrepit with wounds or age, in your beautiful Soldiers' Home. My mind and heart are full of reminiscences connected with Vermont men. Lately, I was reminded at Gettysburg, during the visit of the Count de Paris, of your work there, and was glad to see that your General Stannard had the loftiest monument. Concerning him, your representative in the President's cabinet, Mr. Proctor, has given me, in addition to my own knowledge, bright and interesting war stories; they two, are nobly associated in my memory.

The Second Vermont formed a part of my first brigade, and went with me into our first battle, that of Bull Run. It was a superb regiment; and I believe between the brave spirits that made up its ranks and myself, was a mutual regard. For the non-commissioned officers just after we parted, through the changes of the war-organizations, presented me a beautiful sword which I wore during the remainder of the war, and which, refitted, with some of its dents and scars and bends removed, I have worn on all parades, State and National occasions. It is a perpetual reminder of the patriotism and thoughtful kindness of Vermont men. No general could ask for better soldiers than they were.

Oh! "Bull Run," that was a failure! writes the historian. Perhaps so, but surely, there was a Providence in that battle. We were not yet equipped, either in sentiment or in sacrifice or in provision for the prolonged great struggle.

This is a patriotic day. It is a reminder of what our fathers provided for us, our American Institutions. I am a thorough believer in the practical oneness and genuine American life to which President Harrison has so aptly and feelingly referred.

American Institutions, what are they? I have been accustomed of late to divide them into three classes: the home, the sweet, Christian home, such homes as are not often found in other lands; the school, especially the common school, which brings the springs of adequate knowledge to every child, which the enemies of our liberty-loving country ardently wish to cripple or destroy; and then not *the* church, *but the churches*, those which our fathers founded, where men can worship God according to the dictates of their individual consciences without let or hindrance. These, to my mind, are the fundamental institutions of the land; they are, indeed, what our fathers of the Revolution fought for; they are

what in these later years Vermont soldiers had in mind. Institutions which they and their comrades of other States have, thank God, made universal! These Institutions! We are glad, now that the flag of genuine freedom waves over every State, to commit them to our children and children's children, who, we are confident, will have the virtue, the patriotism and the Divine help to render them perpetual.

The next speaker called upon was ex-Governor Russell A. Alger, of Michigan. The President remarked that although General Alger was not a native of Vermont, or a resident of the State, he had married a Vermont lady and was, therefore, assigned to speak for the women of Vermont:

GENERAL ALGER'S REMARKS. —

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. — To me has been assigned the very pleasing part in this programme, of responding to the toast, "The Women of Vermont." I gratefully acknowledge my debt to the Green Mountain State, referred to by General Veazey, and am glad to testify that, in a very large measure, whatever of prosperity and happiness have come to me, is due to her who has been my life-counsel, and who is proud to enroll herself as a Daughter of Vermont.

All who are attending these festivities, can well testify to the lovely hospitality and gentle kindness of the women of this Commonwealth, and could you look in upon the happy home where we are domiciled, you would readily see why a Vermont home is my ideal.

What can I say of the women of Vermont? They are *beyond praise*; and, like the women all over this country, whenever war has been inflicted upon it, have been the strong right arm of the men in the field, and by their courage, self-sacrifice and counsel, have cheered and encouraged those who have had to meet the foe, and thus have directly aided in the success that has always attended our arms.

One without experience might wonder why men have the courage to go into battle, but it is easily explained when it is remembered that besides their own sense of duty, their love of country and their own determination, a silent power impels them on, and that power the fact that every man, in the field, had at home his "Annie Laurie."

While we have been dedicating this great structure to the heroes of the battle of Bennington I have been thinking, not only of this, but of other monuments reared to the memory of men who have served this country, which I have seen in the past few years,



Wm. Field & Co. Boston

and have thought how far they fall short of telling the whole story.

If behind, and around these structures there could be seen, hovering, the forms of the women at home who cheered the men on, and made them soldiers; and if, still further, it was possible to gather about them the anxieties, tears and sorrows, the long years of painful watching for the sound of the foot-fall that was never again to be heard crossing the threshold at home; and also the sufferings of the wounded in the field and hospital, far from home and friends, *that* in a measure would represent *war*. But all this is impossible, and while I gladly see this Monument erected to the men in the field, I have thought what an impossible task it would be to erect a fitting one to the women, — the greatest sufferers of all wars; because the dome of the skies would not be high enough to receive its cope-stone. God bless the women?

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very glad indeed to have had this opportunity to be with you to-day, and I wish to the women of Vermont, every happiness that can come to mortals in this life.

President Veazey next introduced the Hon. Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War, who spoke briefly. [When Secretary of War Proctor arose in his place beside The President, he was unable to stand erect under the low roof of the tent, and two men with poles held up the tent roof while he spoke. The incident furnished a good deal of amusement, and Secretary Proctor turned it to account.] He said:

REMARKS OF REDFIELD PROCTOR, SECRETARY OF WAR. —

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. — I can this time at least, honestly say and prove, that it was not intended to call upon me for any response, for the tent is so pitched, that where I am, the head of a man over six feet-one is lost in its folds. Many of our guests from other States, and perhaps a very few native Vermonters, are under that measure; and the tent and platform were evidently arranged by some envious person of low stature, to give that class the monopoly of the speaking, and shut out the average Vermonter, and for my part it is a matter of regret that your President has undertaken to thwart his designs.

I am here in a two-fold capacity to-day. As a visitor, I am glad to say that the exercises of this occasion have been of a higher order, its general conduct and management better, than those of any similar occasion which it has been my good fortune to attend. As a Vermonter, I am proud that The President and so many distinguished guests have had this opportunity to see our State and people, and that they are honored by the presence of this grand assemblage.

Nowhere, within the bounds of this vast Nation, can its Chief Magistrate find a people who, from the first struggle for independence, from the time of Ticonderoga, and Bennington, to Gettysburg, and Appomattox, have been more loyal and devoted to the great principles there established and maintained, or more ready to do and dare in their behalf.

We are glad to see and welcome our guests and thank them for their presence. But I am sure they will acknowledge that they are under greater obligation for the opportunity to be here to-day.

The next speaker introduced was Hon. William H. H. Miller, Attorney-General of the United States :

RESPONSE BY ATTORNEY-GENERAL MILLER. —

The Editor of this volume, in reply to a request for a *resume* of General Miller's remarks, received the following letter :

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26, 1891.

H. L. Stillson, Esq., Chairman Committee on Printing, Bennington, Vt. MY DEAR SIR. — Yours of December 12th, enclosing a clipping in reference to my remarks at the dinner at Bennington, is received. I have scarcely thought of the fact that I made any remarks at the Bennington feast since the day of its occurrence. It is, therefore, quite impossible for me to recall what was said. Upon the supposition that possible a fuller report might be found, my Private Secretary has been searching the files since your letter was received, but without success. Anything I might send now would be simply a new speech, not a recollection of the old one, and, therefore, I must beg you to excuse me.

Very truly yours, W. H. H. MILLER.

The newspaper report, referred to, is as follows : "Attorney-General Miller said he had been most intensely interested in the day's exercises. 'I have never heard the story so well presented as by Vermont's peerless Orator of to-day, — a man who always returns increase for the honor he has received.' He referred briefly to the valor of the patriots of the Mohawk Valley and the part they played in the War of the Revolution. Those yeomen in that dreadful time showed themselves worthy of the men who had fought under the banner of William the Silent. He rehearsed the valiant relief of Fort Stanwix, a short time before the battle of Bennington, where the ravages of the British and Indians were stopped and the marauders sent flying back to Canada. As to the Battle of Bennington, it had occurred to him that the readiness with which the Hessians surrendered may be taken as a sign of gallantry, for it was his idea that almost anybody would surrender before taking the chance of making Mollie Stark, or other good looking women, a widow."



Alex. S. Webb
Brig. Maj. Gen.
U. S. Army

General Alexander H. Webb, President of the College of the City of New York, was next introduced. President Veazey spoke of him as the gentleman who, probably, had a wider knowledge of interesting incidents of the unpublished history of the War of the Rebellion, than any other man now living; and, who, though distinguished throughout the war, was perhaps best known and most honored for his eminent services in command of a brigade, in the front line, at the so-called high-water-mark of Rebellion, on the field of Gettysburg. Mr. Webb spoke as follows:

GENERAL WEBB'S RESPONSE TO A SUDDEN CALL.—

It is to me a new sensation to stand before an audience so thoroughly American, and to feel assured that when I speak the American language, I can be understood by every member of this vast assemblage.

Your presiding officer has kindly referred to the services of my command at the battle of Gettysburg, in your presence and in the presence of his Excellency The President, Members of the Cabinet, Governors of States, representatives of the army and navy, and invited guests, representing the highest interests of the Nation; and he has, also, presented me in a manner calculated to either prevent one speaking at all before you, if he followed the dictates of those feelings which ordinary modesty would arouse, or, on the other hand, would be prompted to speak with earnestness, and in flattering terms of the help given me by the very troops represented by the chief men of your State, and the major portion of the old soldiers now before me. I prefer to choose the latter course, and to pay willing tribute to the valor displayed by the organizations sent from Vermont.

We who reached Washington at an early date, educated at West Point, and serving *from Minnesota to Florida, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, were particularly interested in the solution of the problem, which confronted our military leaders, when the question arose involving the brigading of troops and the selection of Brigadier-Generals to command them. Our views were especially cosmopolitan, and we could not look with favor upon the continuance of State organizations. Brigades of Massachusetts, and Vermont, and Pennsylvania troops, commanded by general officers appointed to represent the States, were, in our opinion, organizations to be looked upon with, to say the least, a want of approval. We were greatly afraid that the tendency would be to preserve State distinctions and State lines, in the very army which should appear to us to be the most National, and the most free from these very State distinctions.

But your Generals Stannard and Wells, your Proctors, and your Grants and Veazeys, your highest and your smallest, the great leaders of your State organizations proved to us, in the end, that our suspicions were unjust and our apprehensions uncalled for. No man has more to say in favor of the Vermont Brigade organization than he to whom the Vermont Brigade, under General George J. Stannard, gave such memorable assistance on July 3, 1863. Never have troops, handled with judgment and discretion, and moved with celerity and dash, performed greater service and made more modest claims to distinction or preferment. And, to-day, a living witness of your gallant service on the field of Gettysburg, adds — to this small tribute to the value of the services rendered by Stannard on July 3, 1863 — this further expression of his gratitude to Vermont Generals, Vermont Governors, and Vermont soldiers, for the many exhibitions of kindly feeling and respect which he has, for nearly thirty years, received from his brother soldiers from Vermont, who on that memorable field joined their forces with his own, and enabled him to finally repel the rebel charge, which, unfortunately for the truth of history, has given to a Union battle a rebel name. And it seems to me now has forever fixed the public eye on a rebel assault, instead of upon the Union repulse of it.

General John G. McCullough of Bennington, was next introduced as the selected representative to speak for the people of Bennington; and in behalf of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, in which he had long been an officer and had rendered most valuable service:

RESUME OF GENERAL McCULLOUGH'S REMARKS. —

General John G. McCullough spoke for the Battle Monument Association, and also for the people of Bennington. His remarks were very happy. After some pleasantries, he reviewed the historic incidents of the occasion, and, among other things, said:

“The Battle Monument Association needs no other advocate than the shaft on yonder hill. The Monument speaks for itself. The silent eloquence of its stately and shapely proportions, down the ages, will ever be the best, as they will be the most enduring testimony to the labors of the Association.

“And as for the people of Bennington, they would rather listen than be heard. To-day is Bennington's opportunity, her privilege, her gala-day. Like her ladies she is clothed in all the colors of beauty. At her humble board she is happy in entertaining the true nobility of the land, from the peasant to the President. For the second time in her history, she is proud to welcome the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, who has been ‘so clear in his great office,’ as



J. S. McCullough

also all these Governors, and Generals, and high dignitaries from all the professions, around about me. She is glad to have heard over again, from so many friendly lips, the old, old story that is ever young, — the story of her heroic youth, of the sterling and stalwart virtues of her early manhood, of the crowning glories of the first century of Vermont's Statehood. As the motto on yonder arch says: 'The best legacy of Vermont's first century, is her sons and her daughters.' And after listening to all this partial speech, you will forgive the little Commonwealth for believing herself, to-day, richer in all the essentials of true wealth, than the fabled garden of the Hesperides; and Bennington, you will pardon, after having returned her thanks and extended a cordial invitation to all to come to our future Centennials, if to-night she falls asleep dreaming herself, in all the elements of true beauty with her hills and her valleys of the Battenkill and the Walloomsac, as fairer than the classic vale of Tempe."

The next speaker was ex-Governor Rice of Massachusetts. In introducing him President Veazey alluded to the fact of Governor Rice having been the Governor of Massachusetts at the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, which he attended at Bennington, and also as having been a Director of the Battle Monument Association for many years, and the sincere and devoted friend of the project of erecting the Monument, which had that day been dedicated. He spoke as follows:

EX-GOVERNOR RICE'S ADDRESS. —

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. — The utterance of an apology is not likely to be altogether acceptable to a festive audience like this; yet it is only due to myself to say that any estimate of my own importance did not bring me within the possible scope of those who would be invited to address you to-day. On the contrary, such is my present state of health, that I should not have been permitted to come here had my physician been on this side of the Atlantic. In his absence I have yielded to my own predisposition and to the cordial invitation and proffered hospitality of some of your worthiest citizens to participate, so far as I could, in the splendid demonstration which attends the celebration of this great anniversary and the completion of this magnificent Monument.

Were men gifted with tenacious memories and endowed with perpetual life, there would be little or no need of monuments to commemorate notable events; but inasmuch as they are not, and as posterity needs the emphasis and inspiration of their forefathers as stimulants to ambition and patriotism, monumental and heroic structures have, in the ages, been found most conducive to these

ends : and you have erected one upon these green hills, which, I am sure, will never be among the insignificant.

There is a martial association about this anniversary which is highly exhilarating ; not that we in the abstract delight in war. I do not believe that is the sentiment of the people of highly civilized nations. We admire individual bravery and self-possession and courage ; but with the present terribly destructive implements, war is not only pitifully destructive of life, but it has become almost as much a matter of engineering and skill in manœuvre, as of courage. I greatly admire the heroism of the officers and men of our late war, and heartily join in all the gratitude that is felt toward Grant and Sherman and Harrison and Veazey and Webb and their illustrious compeers, and toward the heroic men of the rank and file, and I would forever perpetuate their memory ; but, at the same time, I hope we have seen the last of war in this country ; and henceforth that the brains and heart of our Republic will exhaust every means, in the reach of diplomacy, before there is another appeal to arms for the settlement either of National or International disputes.

It is sometimes asked what New England, with a cold climate and comparative sterility of soil, can produce ? and the reply, after enumerating, "ice, codfish, and timber," has sometimes added "Men." Well, when I saw the Honorable Secretary of War Proctor rise — honored, not only in his office, but in his life and his nativity, and saw that his head went up rather naturally, I suppose, into the folds of our National flag which decorates the border-top of this tent, I was reminded of a story once told me by the late Hon. Mr. Plunkett, of Adams, Massachusetts, a descendant, no doubt, of the heroic men who came from Western Massachusetts to the aid of Bennington in the hours which we now commemorate — and who said that his business often called him to journey among the hill-towns of Berkshire, before the hotel accommodations were as ample or as sumptuous as yours appear to be. Well, Mr. Plunkett was a man of extraordinary height, *very* tall, and sometimes was obliged to make as many self-denials as does a public functionary in our day : and one day, as he told me, he had a very long ride and arrived at a mountain tavern late at night, tired and very cold. To his application for accommodations for the night, the landlord told him there was not an unoccupied bed in the house, and he could only provide for him by putting him into bed with another man. There was no choice and Mr. Plunkett consented to that arrangement and was duly shown to a chamber with one bed, and that already occupied by a stranger. The landlord bade him "good night" and left, when Plunkett began to undress and prepare



Alex: H. Rice.

to retire. When *about* ready, as he supposed, he stripped down the bed clothes, but something delayed his immediate getting into bed, and the drowsy occupant, feeling the chill air and the cold limbs of the new-comer, called out to him, saying, "For goodness sake, how much more is there of you to come?" Well, you observe that the fellow in bed did not object to the Green Mountain boy who was getting in, but only wanted to know *how much more there was of him to come*. The Honorable Secretary of War has signified his desire to retire from his high office; and the eyes of the country are already upon several prominent Vermonters, some one of whom may be his successor; and the only public curiosity seems to be as to *how much more* of such Vermont material there is to come?

You have already heard from the youthful and eloquent Governor of Massachusetts, who has expressed in fitting terms the cordial salutations of "The Old Bay State," in which I fully concur. I am older than he is, but the unthinking would greatly err if they hastily concluded that I had any acquaintance, whatever, with our great ancestor, Adam. I desire, however, to speak respectfully of Adam as the head of our family, though, according to accounts, he did not behave altogether gallantly toward the trustful and intimidated Eve. Adam's opportunities for observation were great and he had the Wisest of Teachers. Our Governor of Massachusetts resides at the seat of one of our great American Universities, yet he said nothing of any classical traditions concerning Adam: and I, myself, reside in the immediate vicinity of some of our greatest libraries, and yet I have nowhere met with any of the literary works of Adam. If he ever wrote about anything, there is no doubt it was about the charms of the Garden of Eden. Well, I have looked out at sunrise, at noon, and at sunset, upon this beautiful landscape of Bennington and vicinity, bathed in the full glory of Summer and the fresh blushes of Autumn, and giving out the air of enchantment over its hills and valleys; and I have been forced to the conclusion that if Adam were now to attempt a description of the beauties and glories of Eden, any Vermonter familiar with *these* scenes, could "give him points" all the time. Probably the Garden of Eden had some handsome plants and posies, and blossoming shrubs, and we applaud the antique taste that could admire them; but what were they compared to the products of the soil of Bennington, which appears to have made these bare poles (temporarily stuck into it to uphold this tent), to burst out in festoons of radiant and sweet-scented flowers?

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall henceforth ever strive with you to cherish, in grateful remembrance, those heroes of

Bennington whose bravery bequeathed to us this charming Centennial anniversary!

Colonel Albert Clarke of Boston, Secretary of the Home Market Club, was next introduced to speak for Vermonters outside of the State; "The Greater Vermont":

COLONEL CLARKE'S RESPONSE. —

Colonel Clarke said he was confident that every non-resident Vermonter, who was here, had, to-day, enjoyed a substantial addition to his already large stock of pride in his native State. He had seen two monuments,—the majestic shaft which commemorated the valor of our ancestors in a decisive battle, and a populace which exemplified the glory of the institutions which the fathers founded. Among all the thousands he had not seen a single ill-clad or misbehaved person, nor one who appeared to have partaken of intoxicating liquors. The people and the village presented evidences of the great and general beneficence of our political, industrial and social system. He had that morning visited a factory, which, though not running on account of the holiday, showed, with others in the village, an opportunity for popular thrift which dates back and bears relation to the struggle of our fathers, and to their wisdom in securing both the political and industrial independence of this country. The Monument on yonder hill will stand unguarded. It is finished, and it represents a completed event. But the laws and institutions, under which the people enjoy prosperity and happiness, equalled by no others in the world, need to be guarded every hour. They are always menaced by aggressive interests from without, and endangered by false teachings and insidious influences within. Let the visible monument be a constant reminder of the invisible spirit of patriotism, political equality, and social progress which formed the great purpose of the Revolutionary heroes, and which must equally animate the people of to-day and to-morrow, or the time will come when the complexion of the multitude will change, and instead of well-dressed throngs of strength and beauty, and peace and order, there will be processions clamoring for bread, or raising the "red flag of anarchy." Both the visible and the invisible are and must remain National,—not sectional, nor cosmopolitan, but American. The true Vermonter, though proud of his native State wherever he goes, and turning to her always the eye of confidence and affection, is yet not clannish nor provincial. Those who were born here, but are not so fortunate as to live here, have been cordially greeted and hospitably entertained in all the other States. Not only has their nativity been a passport, but their habits of industry, enterprise, economy, sobriety, and the moral and religious training which have



Albert Clarke.

ever been the crowing glory of the inhabitants of the lovely valleys and majestic hills, have often carried them to the front in the affairs of business, of State and of humanity. Thus Vermont is many times larger than her domain, and the influence of her Benningtons is multiplied. We, her wandering sons, bring to you to-day our many times renewed tributes of affection and praise; and the highest possible compliment which we can pay to the States where we are domiciled is to say, that we left with regret this paradise of Vermont to go there to toil and dwell.

Elijah B. Sherman, LL.D., of Chicago, Illinois, was, also, called to speak for non-resident Vermonters, and responded as follows:

HON. E. B. SHERMAN'S REMARKS. —

Mr. President. — In further response to the sentiment, "The Greater Vermont," I bring you greeting from the great City of the Lakes, the magnificent *situs* of the coming World's Exposition. With the modesty so characteristic of a typical denizen of Chicago, I refuse to admit, even by implication, that there is anywhere what may properly be said to constitute a "Greater Vermont" than is found among these green hills and fertile valleys. Those who have gone forth to cultivate new fields, and make new conquests, can rightfully assume no superiority over those who remain in the ancestral homes. We are brothers, and alike rejoice in the peerless grandeur, sincerity and simplicity of character of those who founded this unique commonwealth. Absolute freedom and equality were the *Alpha* and *Omega* of their politics, religion and social habits. Sturdy independence marked their speech, conduct, and opinions. Wrestling a scanty livelihood from the sterile soil; strangers to luxury, despising effeminacy and ease; obedient to law because they made it; truthful and frank almost to rudeness; scorning suavity of speech and the formulas of refined society, as essentially insincere and hypocritical; economical almost to parsimony, and yet generous almost to a fault; courageous, honest, persistent, patriotic, God-fearing men, they laid the foundations of a State as grand, as enduring, as picturesque as its mountains and crags, as pure as the waters gushing from its thousand springs, as beautiful as the hues of its Autumnal forests. They laid broad and deep its foundations in public and private virtue. The town meeting, the school house, the college, and the church, were its corner-stones. There was an universal recognition of duty, obligation and self-sacrifice which made of unlettered men and women, unconscious heroes, for true heroism often finds its most congenial soil and noblest growth among the common people.

From the narrow confines of this commonwealth, for more than

half a century, there has been an exodus of vigorous and powerful men. Their feet have trod every zone, they have explored every clime, they have traded in every mart. They have filled every place of power and authority; their influence is felt in every employment and every profession. In the Executive mansion, in legislative halls; in college, seminary and professional school; at the bar and on the bench; controlling the country and the metropolitan press, everywhere you find some Vermonter bearing cheerfully the public burden, discharging well his duty — and, looking out for himself.

As for myself, I am not one of those who believe that our dear old State has degenerated; that “abandoned farms” constitute any considerable part of her ancient heritage; that her soil is impoverished; her schools and academies going to decay, or her sons wanting in energy, ambition and thrift. In all the essentials which constitute a State, in the best and broadest sense, Vermont is still *facile princeps*. Her citizens never possessed so much wealth, so much intelligence, so much enterprise. The State was never more potent, never more progressive than to-day. True, she has given freely of her sons and her daughters to promote the growth, welfare and prosperity of every State, and every city of the great and growing West, but in this she has only verified the truth of the ancient apothegm: “There is that scattereth and yet increaseth.” To us she gave something more valuable than classic lore or scientific knowledge, — the memories that cluster around the homes where honor, and manhood, and thrift were in the very air we breathed.

And wherever the Vermonter goes, whatever be his lot, his heart ever turns to the home of his childhood, and his memory lingers lovingly around that most hallowed spot. For him there is no scenery so enchanting, no verdure so pleasing, no skies over-arching so grandly, or bending so gently down, no Autumn tints so beautiful, no air so pure and bracing, no water so clear and sparkling, no song of birds so sweet, no flowers so fragrant as those of the dear old place where he was born. Memory’s rigid lines are softened, and her pictures touched with pensive beauty, when imagination waves her matchless wand about us and casts around our earlier years the radiance that first streamed over Eden.

I bring you a cordial invitation to the World’s Columbian Exposition, doubtless to be the greatest convocation of peoples the world has ever seen. Upon the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan, in the most marvellous city of ancient or modern times, will be witnessed the grandest display upon which the sun has ever looked down. Thither the nations of the earth will bring the fruitage of their varying civilizations, whether manifest in material form, or in



E. B. Fennell

the higher, broader, grander field of intellectual activity. Art, science, invention and philanthropy will marshal their phalanxes in resplendent array, and the disciples Brahma, Buddha, Confucius, and Christ will join in friendly discussion of those mighty problems, which, through all the ages, have stirred to its profoundest depth every thoughtful and sensitive soul. In this magnificent, intellectual and moral symposium Vermont should bear an honorable part.

The next speaker was Major Charles H. Bartlett, Commander of the Amoskeag Veterans, which organization was present on this occasion, as it had been at the Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Bennington in 1877. He said:

MAJOR BARTLETT'S ADDRESS. —

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. — I appreciate, I trust, the honor and the compliment involved in this invitation to address so distinguished an assemblage, upon an occasion so rich in historic association and fruitful of patriotic inspiration and suggestion.

I recognize the fact, however, that I am wholly indebted for this distinction to the circumstance of my official relation to that military organization, whose fame, I may be permitted to say, was here before it, and whose presence, not only upon this, but upon a former occasion of kindred significance, attests, I trust, its deep and profound interest in the grand historic event commemorated, as also that it is not wholly wanting in that National and liberty-loving spirit whose altar-fires can never cease to glow within the shadow of the Bennington Monument.

I should do great violence to my own feelings, no less than to the manifest proprieties of the occasion, did I fail to embrace this opportunity to tender to the authorities, having in charge this day's magnificent demonstration, the profound acknowledgments of the Amoskeag Veterans for the honor and consideration shown them in their assignment to that honorable and conspicuous post of duty which they have attempted to fill.

They come from the home of Stark, from the hills and the river valleys where his many days were numbered, and where his ashes sleep in a patriot's honored grave; and they seek, in their humble way, to perpetuate something of the custom of his time and to keep fresh and green, in the land of his descendants, the memory of the sacrifices, the achievements and the patriotism, of the heroes of the Revolutionary era.

The Vermont to which we come to-day, bears little resemblance to that Vermont to which our ancestors came to join with yours in striking so telling a blow for liberty and independence a century and odd years ago. The State was not here then, and it was a warmly

and stubbornly debated question whether what was then designated by the name, now so honored and widely famed, belonged to New Hampshire, to Massachusetts, to New York, or really belonged to herself. But the germ of a noble statehood was here, and its development was so rapid, and aggressive, that her ambitious neighbors soon came, not only to recognize, but to respect her individuality, as well as her identity.

But I confess, that I have always felt no little apprehension as to what might ultimately be the fate of Vermont, in the final distribution of the glories of the Battle of Bennington. New York, in one of her affectionate moods, long ago, threw her stalwart arm around the old battle ground, and, with touching complacency, tenderly drew it to her maternal bosom.

New Hampshire and Massachusetts claim to have done, substantially, all the fighting, although we do generously concede that a man by the name of Warner, Seth, I believe, and some of his neighbors, did call around late, and help "rake after." (Great laughter.)

And, in the same generous spirit, I believe that Vermont admits that General Stark, and some of his friends were there and did some business in their line in that vicinity. (Laughter and applause.) She also admits, I suppose, that the old fighting parson of the Berkshire hills, Thomas Allen, was there, and who got as near to Heaven as a forest stump would take him, and devoutly prayed for the conversion and salvation of the souls of his Tory neighbors, who were concealed behind the British breastworks before him; and then, without giving the Lord an opportunity to consider his benevolent petition, seized his trusty old flint-lock and blazed away at them, thus showing his sublime faith that the Great Master whom he served, could operate on a dead Tory just as well as upon a live one. (Great applause and laughter.)

But the mills of the gods, which grind so slowly and so exceedingly small, have clarified the atmosphere, at the end of a century, and things doubtful are made certain, and the obscure is made plain, and, lo, and behold! Vermont has the Monument! And I trust there is enough left of the doctrine of "State rights" to enable her to keep it, henceforth and forever.

In conclusion, let me say, that we most cheerfully concede that the fame, the renown and the glory of Vermont rests upon no such uncertain and insecure tenure as her participation in any one ancient conflict of arms, whatever its magnitude or significance.

Wherever, or whenever, in this land of our fathers, Liberty, National independence or National unity have needed a defender, Vermont has been there. Her dead sleep in the trenches of all her



Yours truly

Chas. C. Bennett.

country's battlefields. She has always stood for purity and honesty in the government. Her hands are clean, her robes are white. The breath of scandal has never come to her nor hers. Her statesmanship has exalted high places. It has added strength to Cabinets; it has made Senates famous.

Her school houses pour their swelling volume of recruits into the ranks of every trade, industry and profession, equally and alike. The educated and cultured brain goes with the busy, frugal hand of honest toil everywhere within her borders. Mechanical and manufacturing skill and industry hover around her very water-falls, and harness the elements in their service. An abounding harvest smiles, not alone on field, and plain, and river valley, but proudly waves its tinselled plume to the Harvest Moon, high up on her mountain slopes. Her homes are the abodes of happiness, of plenty, of culture, of refinement, of purity and virtue, and every domestic felicity.

God bless the first-born of the Federal Union, the Old Green Mountain State.

The last speaker was the Hon. Edwin S. Barrett, of Concord, Mass., President of the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, who spoke briefly, extending the greetings of that organization, and paying a handsome tribute to the ancestry its members represent, as follows:

MR. BARRETT'S REMARKS. —

Mr. President. — The Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution extend a cordial and hearty salutation on this notable and interesting occasion.

Gathered from far and wide, these descendants of Revolutionary ancestors have made this loving pilgrimage to join in the dedication of this noble Monument.

In the ranks of our Massachusetts Society, are two *Sons, whose fathers fought at Bennington, and, doubtless, there are others here to-day who came to look upon the spot where their fathers battled for Liberty.

May these monuments rise on *every* battlefield of the Revolution. Lexington-Green, Concord-Bridge, — "Where the shot was fired heard round the world," — and Bunker Hill, have already appropriate shafts as remembrances of the battles on Massachusetts' soil; and may the good work go on, until all the memorable spots, made famous by the American Revolution, shall have fitting and lasting emblems of that great struggle for human liberty and the rights of man, and stand as beacon-lights, for all the oppressed, to the last syllable of recorded time.

*John McClure, of Revere, Mass., and Joseph Hill, of Hyde Park, Mass.†

The other speakers on the list were United States Senators Chandler, and Gallinger, of New Hampshire; and Edmunds, and Morrill, of Vermont; also, Hon. J. B. Erhardt, and L. E. Chittenden, of New York; ex-Governor Stewart, and Judge H. H. Powers, of Vermont; Colonel A. F. Walker, of Chicago; Colonel H. W. Bruce, President of the Kentucky Sons of the American Revolution, but they were obliged to decline owing to the lateness of the hour. The speaking closed at 7.30 o'clock, P. M. President Harrison left the table before the postprandial was over, and was driven directly to General McCullough's. He was too fatigued to hold the reception, planned for the evening, in the parlors of the Soldiers' Home, so that the *impromptu* presentation of a few prominent guests and people just before the banquet (during a pause), had to suffice for the more extended reception referred to.

"From what has been said of the Oration, and Ceremonies of Dedication," says a contemporary writer, "an idea may be had of the character and beauty of every other feature, which will take corresponding rank. The town was handsomely and elaborately decorated, and was gay in her patriotic attire. The weather was all that could be desired. The rain of the day before had settled the dust and made marching easy. The generous hospitality of the Bennington people was a matter of universal remark. If the Green Mountain Boys, with their helpers, at the close of the 16th day of August, 1777, could say, 'Behold Vermont, here she stands,' Vermonters gathered at Bennington on the 19th of the present month could, with pride, repeat, in the presence of their guests, the same truth and with equal emphasis."



Edwin Shepard Barrett

PART II.

Proceedings at Headquarters During the Bennington Centennial; Sunday in "Camp Vermont," and in the Town during the Sixteenth; The Old First Church, and Historic Sermon by its Pastor. Supplementary Committees; The President's Arrival, and the Dinner at General John G. McCullough's; The Presidential Party, and Review of the Grand Procession; The "Guard of Honor"; Prominent People at the Banquet. Auxiliary Events, and Documentary History. The Guests of Vermont, with an Account of the Special Trains Conveying the Visitors to Bennington, and Return.

CHAPTER I.

GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS, AND CENTENNIAL SUNDAY.

INTRODUCTORY. — The Editor of this volume thought best, as stated in the "Preface," to divide this work into an "Introduction," Parts I., and II., and an Appendix, so that the reader of the body thereof should not be obliged to peruse a mass of detail with the account of the ceremonies of dedication. Therefore, the story, *in extenso*, has been reserved for this Part of the History. The Editor has had the able assistance of the Adjutant-General in making up the records that comprise the first three Chapters; and has, also, availed himself of the work of others in many important particulars of subsequent Chapters, and the Appendix following.

HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHED. — Brigadier-General William H. Gilmore, Quartermaster-General of Vermont, proceeded to Bennington on Wednesday, August 12, 1891, with Captain Edward N. Wright, Military Store-Keeper, and the camp equipage of the National Guard of Vermont.

On the evening of August 15th (Saturday), his Excellency, Carroll S. Page, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief; Brigadier-General Theodore S. Peck, Adjutant and Inspector-General; Brigadier-General Frank E. Alfred, Judge Advocate-General; Brigadier-General Jacob C. Rutherford, Surgeon-General; Colonel Herbert F. Brigham, A. D. C.; Colonel William H. H. Slack, A. D. C.; Colonel Myron J. Horton, A. D. C.; Colonel Lyman F. Abbott, A. D. C.; Colonel Henry R. Cutler, A. D. C.; and Captain Herbert S. Foster, 20th Infantry, U. S. A., Acting Assistant Adjutant-Gen-

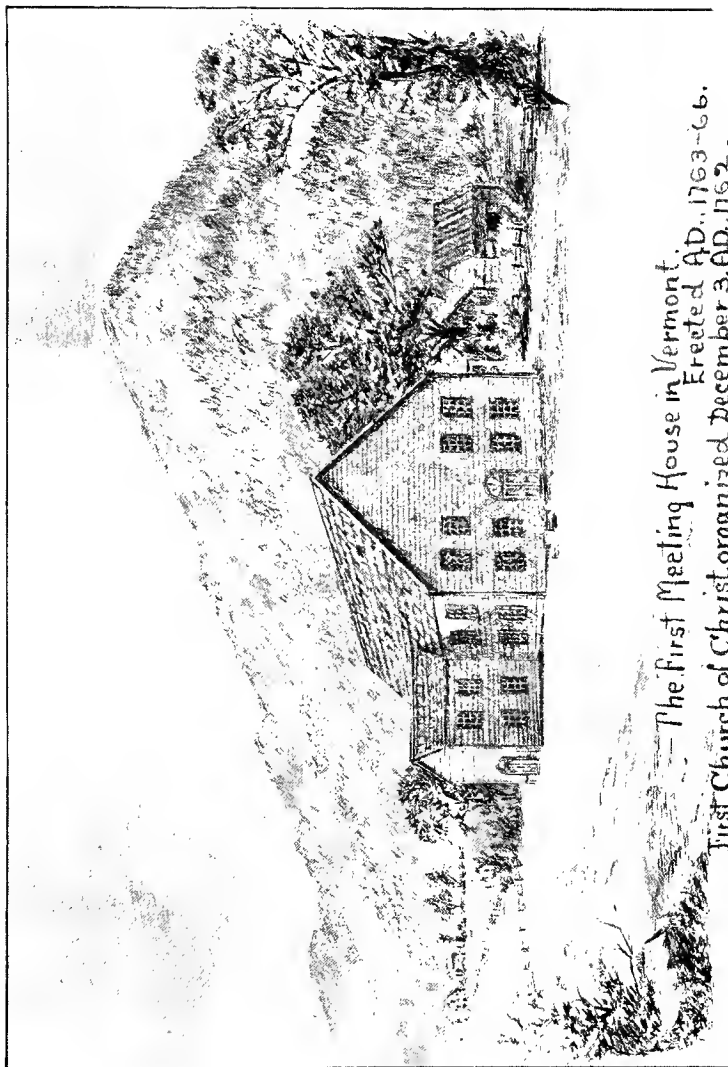
eral, arrived, the Governor using the parlors of the Soldiers' Home for his headquarters, and the Staff occupying the tents near by. The Governor's flag was raised the next morning, and the cannon captured from Colonel Baum on the 16th day of August, 1777, were located in front of these Headquarters.

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY. — On Sunday morning, August 16th, upon invitation of William E. Hawks, Esq., of Bennington, His Excellency and Staff attended the Second Congregational Church, the Rev. Charles R. Seymour preaching an historic sermon.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the Rev. Howard F. Hill, Regimental Chaplain of the First Regiment, conducted Divine service on the circle in front of the Soldiers' Home, his subject being: "The triple value of a man, i. e., his uses for himself, for others and for God." Music was furnished by a male quartette, assisted by the First Regiment Band. The Governor of Vermont and distinguished guests were present.

Later, a union service was held, at the Old First Church at Bennington Centre, which was attended by Governor Page, and many prominent military visitors from abroad. As the church was the one institution, above all others, that gave strength and moral tone to the fathers, and inspired them with heroism and self-sacrifice for their great achievement, it was fitting that the dedication of a monument to their glory should begin with a commemorative service in the house of God. Especially was this an appropriate beginning because they prefaced their work of battle with a religious service in their accustomed place of prayer, the Old First Church of the illustration. The present edifice stands a little to the the East of the site of the first building, and was built early in the century, the great revival of 1803 giving the movement a great impulse.

The interior, on this occasion, was decorated, and the galleries decked with the flags of all Nations and patriotic emblems. Above the pulpit hung a large and beautiful silk flag, for many years owned by Thomas Chittenden, Governor of Vermont from 1778 to 1797, except for the year 1789, when, there being no choice by the people, Moses Robinson was elected Governor by the Legislature. The flag's ground-work is of white silk, with a life-sized Eagle on one side and a Union shield on the other. The pulpit was decorated with a Continental flag of 1775, and the first State flag adopted by Vermont. These two flags are the property of the Vermont Society Sons of the American Revolution, and were loaned by that Society for the occasion. The old Continental flag was used by Washington early in the Revolutionary War, and has seven red and six white stripes, designating the Thirteen Original States, and a blue



— The First Meeting House in Vermont.
Erected A.D., 1763-66.
First Church of Christ, organized December 3, A.D., 1762.

field, with the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George. The Vermont flag has seven red and six white stripes, and a blue field, with a single white star, representing the Independent State of Vermont.

The services included an invocation by the Rev. C. H. Peck; reading of Scripture by the Rev. A. S. Gilbert, and a prayer by the Rev. Z. Marten,—the historical sermon being by the pastor, the Rev. M. L. Severance, who took for his text Psalms xxx., verse 12: "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." It was a discourse full of determined thought, and contained much that was of historical interest. The singing was by the regular church choir.

HISTORIC AND MEMORIAL SERMON.—The following is a very full abstract of the discourse: We have truly a goodly heritage. For some wise and consistent reason God has blessed this great Nation, and given her a name and prestige among the other nations of the earth. All this concentration of wealth and power was begun under Christian light, and has been carried forward by Divine guidance.

The hand of God was over the little band that in 1620 sailed from the harbor of Delft-Haven, under the leadership of such men as Robinson, and Brewster, and John Carver, to plant a colony on the barren shores of a far-off land, that was destined, under God, to change the civilization and government of the world.

There was no *chance* in the whole movement. The Divine plan is seen in its inception, as well as in its progression and final execution. What a sifting God gave the few, who first promised to go, before he sent them forth on their perilous undertaking. The cowardly and false-hearted were sent back to their starting place, and only those who had nerve and toughened sinews wrought into their character dared a voyage over the trackless sea. There was a providence in the stern necessity that drove them out of their father-land, providence in the bribery and treachery that led them to the most inhospitable of the New England shores. It was through just this oppression and hardship that they were trained and imbued with those great and divine principles, which pre-eminently fitted them to be the founders of Government, and the pioneers of Empire.

But it takes more than *oppression* to make men. Thousands upon thousands were under the yoke of oppression, when the Mayflower and the Speedwell sailed out of port, who never rose to the dignity of men. Europe and Asia are teeming, to-day, with servile minds, only made more servile by the yokes put upon them.

The highest type of character is attained only by men who have just views of God. Those who rule God out of their thoughts and out of their lives, can never be imbued with the highest sense of justice, can never rise to the highest conception of human freedom.

The Puritans were men who made a place for God in their thoughts, in their creeds, and in their lives, and God made a place for them in his universe. They trusted in God and went forward, and the Divine *Logos* led them, with an outstretched hand, out of

bondage and over the sea. Those were no ordinary men that lengthened their cords, and drove their stakes on this continent, and laid the foundations for American civilization, and greatness.

They made history, when they acted, and wrote it down, with pens dipped in blood.

To-day is the 114th anniversary of the battle of Bennington. I do not need to refresh your memories with the incidents of this bloody conflict. They are already fresh in all our minds. We have been enjoying the victory, for over a century, which our fathers achieved for us, and the record of their valiant deeds is familiar to every household.

The whole country was under a cloud. The reverses of our arms had dispirited the soldiery, and the out-look was depressing to our stout-hearted commanders. Burgoyne with a large force had come in upon us from the North, and had easily triumphed over all opposition, and was pressing his way on, successfully, to form a junction with General Howe, at New York. The evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga, was soon followed by the disaster at Hubbardton, and Bennington seemed an easy prize to the victor, now halting for supplies at Saratoga. A strong detachment was sent under Colonel Baum to take the provisions, and other military stores, which were held at Bennington. Confident of success, the British general quietly awaited, with his main army at Saratoga, the bringing of the expected supplies. But the distinguished Briton had reckoned for once without his host. He did not know the temper of the steel that he was to encounter. The battle fought was one of the most persistent in the Revolution, as well as one of the most important. It takes rank as one of the seventeen great battles of the world, not because of the numbers engaged, but because of its influence in determining the issues of the war.

When the smoke of this battlefield cleared away, the sun rose with an assured healing in his beams. From the day of the battle of Bennington, our American Freedom was a foregone conclusion. The battle of Saratoga, and the capture of Burgoyne were made certain when our sires conquered Colonel Baum, with his following of Indians and Tories. The prestige of the hitherto conquering army was broken, by this one well-directed blow. The spirit of patriotism kindles in our hearts, to-day, as the imagination weaves her fancies around the memories and heroic deeds which our fathers bequeathed to us. We have a right to rejoice, and glory in their work. Many of us are their direct descendants. We have heard the story from their own lips. My own great-grandfather was acting-captain in the battle, and two of his sons served under him. We are not ashamed of the ancestral prowess that could rush upon the enemy's guns and wrest them from their gunners; that could charge the enemy within his intrenchments and drive him from them; that could rally from the fatigue and plunder of *one battle* to renew the fight, and win a victory in a second.

These were exceptional men that fought our battles for us, and we do well to commemorate their virtues and deeds of valor.

The nations of the old world put into the most attractive and imperishable form the important facts in their national history.



R. E. Dewey

Trajan's Column in Rome, tells the story of his wars, to-day, after almost twenty centuries, as no page in history is telling it. The Vendome in Paris is lifting up the exploits of Napoleon the First, even after his empire is fallen, to the gaze of admiring beholders. The histories of Florence and Venice are, in their great art-galleries, on canvas and in marble, the attractions of the world to-day. England could read her history in monuments, and commemorating buildings, in statuary and painting, on her miles of historic canvas in public halls, and museums, and galleries of art, if the works of her Macaulay, and Knight, and Froude should all be blotted out. Our Nation has not done enough hitherto in this direction. She is too deficient in her historical paintings and historical works of art. She has neglected quite too long these emblematic symbols that are read at a glance of the eye. This battle has lain over a hundred years without its memorial shaft, but at last it has found a fitting monument to bespeak its greatness.

I am not sure but we all ought to be glad of the delay, for in all these years its great conception has been maturing. For well nigh a half century a few earnest and loyal hearts have been watching its inception, and planning for its consummation. At last we have completed the highest single-shaft battle monument in the world. There it stands on yonder hill to tell its grand historic truths to the latest generations. It stands in beauty without a peer. Like the works of the old masters, the Parthenon at Athens, or the Cathedral at Pisa, every line is a line of beauty that is wrought into it, and, like every true work of art, it grows upon you the oftener you see it, and the longer you study its graceful proportions.

But we must not think that these great results in conquest and power, have been reached without the aid of the Church. The great formative influence, in moulding the character of the people and giving stability and worth, has been the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The town was first settled by a Godly people. Those were no ordinary men who, in 1761, planted the first colony in Bennington. Having by purchase become proprietors of the soil, almost their first work was to make provision for the building of a meeting house, and the next year their church was organized. The whole town was deeply interested in all that pertained to the religious welfare of the community. Every man's property was laid under contribution to support the preaching of the gospel. Their action in town meeting, as evinced by their early records, shows as much care of the church as of their secular interests, even to the decorum to be maintained in the hours of worship. The church touched every interest of the people. Its house of worship was the common property of all, and it was used for all worthy purposes. On week-days the children gathered in an upper room for their education. On the Sabbath their fathers and mothers came with them for worship and spiritual instruction. Here convened the Legislature, and after the battle here were confined the prisoners that had surrendered in the contest.

Who can tell the influence of this first church organized within the limits of the State, before any form of government was

established over the territory? How much this Commonwealth is indebted to this Institution of God?

It is the mother of seven churches, while it is doubtless the grandmother of twice as many more. What threads of gold these seven churches, and their descendants have wrought into the robe of State! How much real, genuine character they have dyed in the wool, none can tell. They have kept the religious heart beating, and the spiritual fires burning. When the old church has swarmed, the off-shoot has not always found a Congregational hive to abide in. But what matters it, so long as they all hold up Christ as the Saviour of the world? and so long as they love one another, serving the same Master? These churches have helped to rear the men that have given honor to the Nation. The Old Green Mountain State has filled up her quota of men grandly, in every department of industry, of government and of knowledge, and her churches are what have made her men. We look out upon society, organized on a Christian basis. The church has solved many of the puzzling problems of the past, and it is her mission still to guard the morals of the future. She moulds men, and then men mould the life of the world.

But I must forbear to speak as I would, to-day :

"I hear the muffled tramp of years,
Come stealing up the slope of time,
They bear a train of smiles and tears,
Of burning hopes and dreams sublime."

The past is seen, the future must be prophesied. But prophecy has its roots in the past. The things we have seen done, as we scan the pages of history, give promise of the things that shall be done. We are progressing toward universal freedom. The mind, as well as the body is breaking its shackles. Social questions and moral questions will eventually find their solution.

In reality the Church of Christ must sound the key-note of all true reforms. For eighteen hundred years she has done it, and to this glorious end she is leading the world to-day.

The Sabbath before our Fathers went forth to battle they gathered in their church edifice to listen to a war sermon from their pastor. They took their cause to the God of Battle, and he heard their cry and gave them the victory. We do not know the preacher's text. We can easily imagine that he chose the words of Moses, to be spoken by the priests to ancient Israel, when about to go out to battle: "Hear O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint; fear not and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies."

They certainly fought as if under the inspiration of such words, and victory crowned their faith and works, which in true Apostolic fashion went together.

If the walls of the old church could speak to-day, what tales they would tell! But alas, the old edifice has disappeared, and the men that worshiped in it are gone. Their forms have passed silently, one by one, into the old church-yard and lie at rest. But their strong personality is still with us. We feel the presence of

an invisible host, whose quiet dignity and matchless grace, whose robust manhood and unflinching courage are the true inspiration of the hour.

As we tread above their graves, and read the quaint inscriptions, over which the mosses of a century have grown, we seem to hear, in a kind of solemn under-tone, an exhortation to be faithful to the trusts they have committed to us. Grandeur than the mountains that encircle us, higher than the Monument that towers above us, more enduring than the everlasting hills is the Church of Christ: "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

This service, held in this historic and grand old building, carried with it a most patriotic and reverent feeling; for, if one could ever love his country and be proud of his native land, these services, in this place and at this time, representing the Centennial of one of the decisive battles of the Revolutionary War, must have had their effect for patriotism and love of country.

CHAPTER II.

INTRODUCTORY AND INCIDENTAL EVENTS.

Monday morning, August 17th, all was bustle and work at the headquarters of the Governor of Vermont, the several committees reporting to His Excellency, and the assignment of new committees made. Distinguished guests were rapidly coming in from all parts of the country; and the issuing of invitations to the banquet and grand reviewing stand, for these guests, were in charge of Colonels Slack, Horton, Abbott and Cutler, Aides-de Camp on Governor Page's Staff; while Colonel Brigham, Senior Aide, received all visitors at the Governor's tent, and Colonel Wm. Seward Webb was detailed as Special Aide to escort the President of the United States. Captain H. S. Foster, U. S. A., had charge of the headquarters of the Adjutant-General of Vermont.

Quartermaster-General Gilmore was engaged in looking after the welfare of the troops and those constantly arriving; Surgeon-General Rutherford having charge of the hospital and sanitary department, in which he was ably assisted by Surgeon Jenne, Assistant-Surgeons Huntington and Lee, First Regiment, N. G. V.; Assistant-Surgeon Webster, Fuller Light Battery.

All through the day distinguished gentlemen called to pay their respects to the Governor of Vermont.

On Tuesday, August 18th, the visiting military commenced to arrive, as well as many distinguished guests, who paid their respects to the Governor. During the morning, the Citizens Committee,

appointed by Governor Page, July 20th (to co-operate with the local Committee at Bennington, and with the Governor and Staff to look after the arrival of distinguished guests from without the State and to see that they did not lack courteous attention), met at the Sons of the American Revolution headquarters, to make arrangements for the next day's celebration.

This committee of distinguished gentlemen was constituted as follows: Hon. Geo. F. Edmunds, Hon. J. S. Morrill, Hon. J. W. Stewart, Hon. William W. Grout, Hon. H. Henry Powers, Hon. Roswell Farnham, Hon. John L. Barstow, Hon. Samuel E. Pingree, Hon. E. J. Ormsbee, Hon. Wm. P. Dillingham, Hon. Josiah Grout, Hon. E. H. Powell, Hon. L. O. Greene, Hon. G. G. Benedict, Hon. Frank Plumley, Hon. P. K. Gleed, Hon. U. A. Woodbury, Hon. Wm. H. DuBois, Hon. J. K. Batchelder, Hon. W. H. H. Bingham, Hon. Franklin Fairbanks, Hon. Henry Ballard, Hon. W. E. Johnson, Hon. B. D. Harris, Hon. F. G. Field, Hon. H. D. Holton, Hon. N. W. Fisk, General Wm. Y. W. Ripley, General J. G. McCullough, General Wm. Wells, Colonel P. W. Clement, Colonel Alfred A. Hall, Colonel E. C. Smith, Colonel F. D. Proctor, Colonel T. C. Fletcher, Colonel B. B. Smalley, Colonel T. O. Seaver, Colonel Geo. W. Hooker, Colonel R. J. Kimball, Colonel Z. M. Mansur, Rev. M. H. Buckham, Messrs. S. C. Shurtleff, Hiram Atkins, C. A. Prouty, C. M. Wilds, C. H. Davenport, W. W. Stickney, H. M. Arms, L. Bart Cross, A. J. Sibley.

The following sub-committees were named:

On Exercises. — Colonel Geo. W. Hooker, Brattleboro; Colonel R. J. Kimball, West Randolph; ex-Governor E. J. Ormsbee, Brandon; Hon. J. K. Batchelder, Arlington; Hon. Frank Plumley, Northfield.

On Reviewing Stand. — Major-General Wm. Wells, Burlington; ex-Governor S. E. Pingree, Hartford; General Thomas O. Seaver, Woodstock; Colonel Z. M. Mansur, Island Pond; Hon. P. K. Gleed, Morrisville.

On Banquet. — Colonel Luther O. Greene, Woodstock; Hon. F. G. Field, Rutland; Hon. E. H. Powell, St. Albans; Hon. B. D. Harris, Brattleboro; Hon. Wm. H. DuBois, West Randolph.

On Ladies. — Ex-Governor Roswell Farnham, Bradford; Hon. H. H. Powers, M. C., Morrisville; Hon. H. M. Arms, Springfield; Hon. H. D. Holton, Brattleboro; Hon. L. O. Hazen, St. Johnsbury.

On Grand Stand. — Ex-Lieutenant-Governor U. A. Woodbury, Burlington; Colonel G. W. Hooker, Brattleboro; Colonel Fletcher D. Proctor, Proctor; Colonel Bradley B. Smalley, Burlington; Hon. L. Bart Cross, Montpelier.

On the arrival of the afternoon train, General Alfred and Colonel Abbott, of Governor Page's Staff, met Governor Tuttle of New Hampshire, who was attended by Major-General A. D. Ayling,



Theodore S. Peck
Adjutant General.

Adjutant-General, and other members of his Staff, also distinguished guests, and escorted them to the quarters assigned them in town.

At midnight General Alfred, Colonels Brigham, and Slack, met Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, with Major-General Samuel Dalton, Adjutant-General, and other members of his Staff, who arrived on their train, which was special, and was used by His Excellency, and the members of the Massachusetts delegation, during the Centennial Celebration.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT. — Colonel Wm. Seward Webb, Aide-de-Camp on the Staff of the Governor of Vermont, had proceeded to State Line to meet the President of the United States, and his distinguished party, and, at 8.15, a special train of cars, over the Fitchburg line, rolled into North Bennington station. The President was escorted to his carriage by General John G. McCullough, whose guest he was to be during the Centennial Celebration. Colonel George W. Hooker called for three cheers as he passed, which were given with genuine, true Vermont enthusiasm. Colonel Wm. Seward Webb escorted Secretary Proctor to the same carriage, which was in waiting to conduct them to the residence of General McCullough, about a quarter of a mile distant. The President, with Gen. McCullough, occupied the rear seat, and Colonel Webb, with Secretary Proctor, the front seat of a handsome victoria drawn by two large bay horses.

The other carriages contained Attorney-General Miller, Hon. Edward J. Phelps, Russell B. Harrison, Secretary Halford, Messrs. Kale, Tibbitts and Loomis, General Russell A. Alger, General Wheelock G. Veazey, Colonel Aldace F. Walker, Colonel Bradley B. Smalley; ex-Governor Alexander H. Rice, of Massachusetts; Major-General Alexander S. Webb, of New York, and ex-Governor John W. Stewart, of Vermont.

About 8.30, P. M., Governor Page, accompanied by Adjutant-General Theodore S. Peck, called upon Governor Tuttle at his quarters, and then drove to the residence of General John G. McCullough, at North Bennington, to bid The President a hearty welcome to the Green Mountain State, and to arrange details for the exercises of the following day.

THE DINNER AT GENERAL McCULLOUGH'S. — After the courtesies of the occasion had been performed, General McCullough entertained the distinguished party at dinner. At 9 o'clock they sat down to the table, President Harrison and Mrs. McCullough leading the way. The hostess is a stately woman of more than ordinary beauty, and, in the large dining-hall where her father, the late Hon. Trenor W. Park, entertained so many famous people, she

presides with gracious dignity. The dinner party, of the 18th, was composed as follows: President Harrison and Mrs. McCullough, Governor Page and Mrs. E. J. Phelps, Hon. E. J. Phelps and Mrs. General Baxter, Senator Morrill and Mrs. John King, Secretary Proctor and Miss McCullough, Attorney-General Miller and Miss King, Mr. John King and Miss Lewis, Doctor Wm. Seward Webb and Mrs. Loomis, Private Secretary Halford and Miss Ella McCullough, Adjutant-General Peck, Mr. Russell B. Harrison, Mr. Loomis and Mr. Charles Phelps, Mr. Hall P. McCullough, General McCullough and Mrs. Miller. It may be of interest to state that the same party sat down to dinner on the evening of the 19th, supplemented, however, by Senator Edmunds and General Wm. Wells.

On the 18th, also, at the same time, Mr. F. B. Jennings entertained General and Mrs. Russell A. Alger, General and Mrs. Wheelock G. Veazey, Colonel and Mrs. Aldace F. Walker, Colonel and Mrs. Bradley B. Smalley, ex-Governor Rice, of Massachusetts, Major-General Alexander S. Webb, ex-Governor Stewart and others.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY, THE MOUNTED ESCORT, AND GUARD OF HONOR. — Early Wednesday morning, the John A. Logan Post, Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Vermont (the only mounted Veteran Post in the United States), of Orwell, Captain H. G. Hibbard, commanding, marched to North Bennington, as special escort to President Harrison and his party, with orders to conduct them to the Soldiers' Home. This was performed in good style, the column arriving at precisely 9.45, A. M. The President's party was received with great cheers. After a few minutes spent in hand-shaking, the carriages were loaded as follows: The President of the United States, Governor Carroll S. Page, of Vermont, and Colonel William Seward Webb, Aide-de-Camp, riding in a beautiful victoria drawn by four white horses.

A Guard of Honor composed of Vermont soldiers, veterans of the War of the Rebellion, formed a hollow square around the carriage of President Harrison, and performed escort duty during the entire march. They were all large, stalwart men, and were ably commanded by Major John S. Drennan (11th Vermont Volunteers), of Hardwick, Vermont. Their names are: J. S. Drennan, of Hardwick; Abel E. Leavenworth, of Castleton; Charles Gokey, of Northfield; A. F. Dodge, of Barre; Geo. P. Blair, of Barnet; H. L. Barnard, of West Rutland; C. H. Wheeler, of Irasburgh; C. A. Powell, of Richford; A. M. Haskell, of Brattleboro; A. P. Sheldon, of West Rutland; D. E. Boyden, of West Townshend; E. M. Haynes, of Rutland; E. W. Rolfe, of Tunbridge; H. E. Taylor, of Brattleboro, and J. E. Post, of Rutland.

Second Carriage. — Ex-Governor Prescott, of New Hampshire, President of the Battle Monument Association; General Wheelock G. Veazey, President of the Day; ex-United States Minister Edward J. Phelps, Orator of the Day; Brigadier-General Theodore S. Peck, Adjutant-General, of Vermont.

Third Carriage. — Hon. Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War the Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D., Chaplain of the Day; Hon. William H. H. Miller, Attorney-General; Brigadier-General William H. Gilmore, Quartermaster-General, of Vermont.

Fourth Carriage. — Governor Hiram A. Tuttle, of New Hampshire; United States Senator J. D. Gallinger; Major-General A. D. Ayling, Adjutant-General, of New Hampshire.

Fifth Carriage. — Governor William E. Russell, of Massachusetts; Lieutenant-Governor William H. Haile; Major-General Samuel Dalton, Adjutant-General, of Massachusetts.

Sixth Carriage. — Major-General Russell A. Alger, of Michigan; General John G. McCullough; Hon. John King, of New York; Brigadier-General Frank E. Alfred, Judge Advocate-General, of Vermont.

Seventh Carriage. — Hon. George F. Edmunds, United States Senator from Vermont; Hon. Justin S. Morrill, United States Senator from Vermont; Major-General Alex. S. Webb, of New York; Brigadier-General J. C. Rutherford, Surgeon-General, of Vermont.

Eighth Carriage. — Major-General Oliver Otis Howard, U. S. A.; Brigadier-General R. N. Batchelder, U. S. A.; Hon. George Grenville Benedict; Colonel Herbert F. Brigham, A. D. C., of Vermont.

Ninth Carriage. — Ex-Governor John W. Stewart; General William W. Grout, M. C.; Hon. H. H. Powers, M. C.; Colonel W. H. H. Slack, A. D. C., of Vermont.

Tenth Carriage. — Ex-Governor Roswell Farnham, ex-Governor Ebenezer J. Ormsbee, ex-Governor Samuel E. Pingree, ex-Governor John L. Barstow.

Eleventh Carriage. — Ex-Governor Greene, of New Jersey; Hon. L. L. Tarbell, of Boston, Mass., Registrar-General S. A. R.; Hon. Henry Hall, of New York; Major-General Wm. S. Stryker, Adjutant-General, of New Jersey.

Twelfth Carriage. — Hon. William E. Chandler, United States Senator from New Hampshire; Collector A. W. Beaird, of Massachusetts; Senator Dawes, of Massachusetts; Colonel Myron J. Horton, A. D. C., of Vermont.

Thirteenth Carriage. — Ex-Governor Alex. H. Rice, of Massachusetts; Mr. H. Walter Webb, of New York; Hon. E. W. Halford, Private Secretary to President Harrison; Colonel Lyman F. Abbott, A. D. C., of Vermont.

Fourteenth Carriage. — Judge Blatchford, of the United States Supreme Court; Mr. Frederick B. Jennings; Hon. A. F. Walker; Colonel Henry R. Cutler, A. D. C., of Vermont.

Fifteenth Carriage. — Major-General William Wells, of Burlington; Major-General Joseph E. Carr, of Albany; General James M. Warner, of Albany; ex-Lieutenant-Governor Urban A. Woodbury, of Burlington.

Sixteenth Carriage. — Colonel L. L. Langdon, First Artillery, U. S. A.; Commander E. T. Woodward, U. S. N.; Major F. C. Ainsworth, Surgeon, U. S. A.; Captain Emerson H. Liscum, 19th Infantry, U. S. A.

Seventeenth Carriage. — Mr. Russell B. Harrison, of Montana; Lieutenant Treat, U. S. A.; Colonel Robert J. Kimball, of Vermont; Mr. Kale, of Indiana.

Eighteenth Carriage. — General F. G. Butterfield, and Colonel John R. Thompson, of Washington, D. C.; Colonel Geo. W. Hooker, and Hon. John W. Cramton.

Nineteenth Carriage. — Captain A. C. Taylor, U. S. A.; Captain Taylor, commanding the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, of Boston; Major-General Schuyler Hamilton, of New York; Lieutenant William H. Humphrey, of Vermont.

The supply of carriages, not only for the Presidential party, above, but, also, for the State guests, in Division Third of the Grand Procession, was ample, and the arrangement faultless, reflecting great credit upon Chairman Gibson, and his associates, of the Committee on Carriages.

THE REVIEW, AND SUBSEQUENT EXERCISES. — At precisely ten o'clock, the Division of carriages, led by the President of the United States, moved to its position in line, whereupon General William L. Greenleaf, Chief Marshal, started the column. On the line of march from the Soldiers' Home to the President's reviewing stand, it was one continuous ovation.

Upon arriving at the reviewing stand, President Harrison was received by the Reception Committee (Major-General Wm. Wells, Chairman), and escorted to his position at the front of the stand. Governor Page stood at his right; Secretary of War, Proctor; Attorney-General Miller; Governor Tuttle, of New Hampshire, with Adjutant-General Ayling; Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, with Adjutant-General Dalton; Major-General Howard, of the United States Army; ex-Governor Prescott, of New Hampshire; ex-Governor Greene, of New Jersey; Hon. Wheelock G. Veazey, President of the Day; Hon. Edward J. Phelps, Orator of the Day; the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst, Chaplain of the Day, and Adjutant-General Theodore S. Peck stood in their rear. The other distinguished guests, who rode in the carriages of the President's Division, occupied seats on the reviewing stand, while the grand stand opposite was filled with lovely ladies from Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and all parts of the country.

Immediately as the troops commenced the march, passing the Chief Executive of the United States and the Governor of Vermont, all the bands and drum corps played "The President's March," the officers and colors saluted, amid the rousing cheers from the



J. E. Gibson

people, and those who lined the sidewalks and the Grand Stand opposite waved their handkerchiefs. While all the organizations passed in splendid form, it will be no disparagement to any of them to say, that the marching of the West Point Cadets; Major Cushing's Light Battery (4th United States Artillery); the Battalion National Guard of New Hampshire; the Separate Companies of Infantry, National Guard State of New York, and the Vermont National Guard were particularly fine. The Mounted Post, Grand Army of the Republic; the Grand Army Posts; Sons of Veterans; Sons of the American Revolution, with the Continental flags at their head (rear-guard of the two cannon captured from Colonel Baum in the Bennington Battle August 16, 1777); the Knights Templars; Patriarchs Militant, I. O. O. F.; Knights of Pythias, etc., all made a grand and imposing spectacle, and their soldierly bearing, and magnificent marching, will long be remembered by a happy people.

After the President's party had taken their carriages, they led the Third or Carriage Division to the Monument. Upon arrival there, The President was met by the Committee, under the leadership of ex-Lieutenant-Governor Urban A. Woodbury, — who, with his empty sleeve, made a stirring picture, and a strong reminder of the days of 1861-'65, — and escorted to his seat amid loud cheers.

A retrospect of this occasion emphasizes the probability that this was Bennington's last great day of this generation, and also, that it was the greatest of the series. Another century must pass away before it can be equalled — but we will not trouble ourselves about that. The Bennington of the present covered herself with glory, in the spirit with which her citizens entered into the great entertainment and assisted in carrying out its details. What will strike the interested reader of this volume with peculiar force is the rich variety of its features and their being brought together into one grand system — the plan and its thorough and easy execution. There were large forces of representative militia from several states, all welded together and brought into active service as readily as organized troops in the field. Working in entire harmony, were large delegations from the leading civic, or semi-military societies of Knights Templars of Freemasonry, and Patriarchs Militant of Odd Fellowship, each vying with the other in the size of their columns, military appearance and attractiveness of uniforms. To these organizations are to be added the Soldier Veterans, Sons of Veterans, Sons of the American Revolution (with the Continental, and Vermont flags of 1775, carried by Mr. Daniel W. Robinson and Colonel Wm. A. Crombie, of Burlington, both large, and splendid looking gentlemen, members of the Vermont Society), Vermont

Legislators, visitors in carriages, and — for how many more, the reader is referred to pages 70-74. Woven in the fabric, also, were the literary exercises and the banquet.

THE COMMITTEE ON MUSIC. — This committee, of which Secretary Bates was Chairman (page 66), early determined that in the absence of a poem, an original ode was the least that could be submitted on the Dedication occasion. The following was, therefore, prepared and finely rendered in its order as stated :

Bennington, Vt., August 19, 1891.

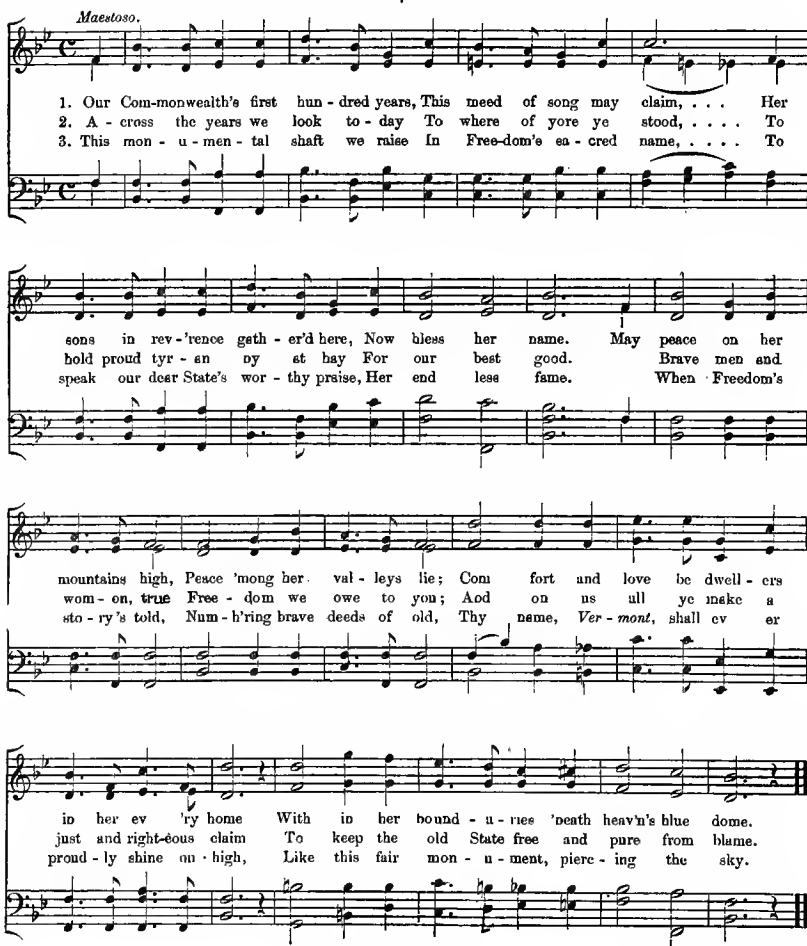
VERMONT CENTENNIAL ODE.

Words by EMMET B. DALEY.

(vide p. 63)

Music by RUDOLPH GOLDSMITH.

Maestoso.



1. Our Com-mon-wealth's first hun - dred years, This meed of song may claim, . . . Her
 2. A - cross the years we look to - day To where of yore ye stood, . . . To
 3. This mon - u - men - tal shaft we raise In Free-dom's sa - cred name, . . . To

sons in rev - 'rence gath - er'd here, Now bless her name. May peace on her
 hold proud tyr - an - ny at bay For our best good. Brave men and
 speak our dear State's wor - thy praise, Her end less fame. When Freedom's

mountains high, Peace 'mong her val - leys lie; Com - fort and love be dwell - ers
 wom - on, true Free - dom we owe to you; And on us all ye make a
 sto - ry's told, Num - b'ring brave deeds of old, Thy name, Ver - mont, shall ev - er

in her ev 'ry home With in her bound - a - ries 'neath heav'n's blue dome.
 just and right-eous claim To keep the old State free and pure from blame.
 proud - ly shine on - high, Like this fair mon - u - ment, pierc - ing the sky.



Edw. L. Halsey

At the conclusion of the dedicatory exercises, the guests took their carriages and moved to the front of the procession, returning to the Soldiers' Home, where they found the troops drawn up in line, and as The President passed along in front of the many organizations he was received with arms presented and colors drooping, the drums beating "The President's March."

CHAPTER III.

DETAILS OF THE BANQUET, AND THE PYROTECHNICS.

Upon arrival at the Soldiers' Home, preparations were immediately made to repair to the Banquet-tent, which had been placed in readiness by the Committee on Banquet and Tents, Judge Carney, chairman. The sale of tickets to dinner had been so managed by Secretary Bates, of the Citizens Committee of Fifty, that everybody was ready, ticket in hand. This left little for the military guard to do, but to place the awaiting people in line, and the door-keepers to take up the vouchers. After the slight pause at the Soldiers' Home parlors, during which a number were presented to The President, as above stated, the Nation's Chief Executive and Governor Page led the way to dinner, the Staff of the Governor of Vermont acting as a guard of honor, forming a square around The President, Cabinet officers, the officials of the Day, and guests, as they walked to the pavilion, — the First Regiment band playing, "Hail to the Chief," as they entered. The people, who had previously assembled in the banquet-room, remained standing with uncovered heads, until the distinguished guests were seated. Each member of the President's party were assigned to seats on a raised platform. General Wheelock G. Veazey, President of the Day, occupied the centre of the table. President Harrison was seated at his right, with Governor Page at his left, and Secretary of War Proctor at his right.

To the right of Secretary Proctor were seated: Attorney-General Miller; Senators Edmunds and Morrill, of Vermont; Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire; ex-Governor Rice, of Massachusetts; Colonel Albert Clarke, of Boston; Hon. Wm. W. Grout, M. C., from Vermont; General J. M. Warner, and Major-General Jos. B. Carr, of Albany, N. Y.; Hon. John King, General J. G. McCullough, Colonel Wm. Seward Webb, Mr. H. Walter Webb, Colonel B. B. Smalley, Colonel Herbert F. Brigham, A. D. C.; President Barrett, of the Sons of the American Revolution; Colonel William A. Crombie; Colonel George W. Hooker; Hon. Daniel Roberts, of Burlington; Colonel H. R. Cutler, A. D. C.; General F. E. Alfred, Judge Advo-

cate-General of Vermont; Colonel Lyman F. Abbott, A. D. C.; Captain Herbert S. Foster, U. S. A.; Captain R. W. Hoyt, U. S. A.; Colonel L. L. Langdon, U. S. A.; ex-Governor Barstow, of Vermont; Hon. L. L. Tarbell, Registrar-General, S. A. R.; Lieutenant Treat, U. S. A.; Major F. C. Ainsworth, Surgeon, U. S. A.; Hon. William H. Bruce, of Kentucky; Colonel MacDonald, of Washington, D. C.; General William L. Greenleaf, commanding Brigade, V. N. G.; Colonel M. D. Greene, Assistant Adjutant-General; Colonel William Smith, Assistant Quartermaster-General; Major R. J. Coffey, Provost-Marshal; Major C. E. Nelson, Inspector of Rifle Practice; Captain Max. L. Powell, A. D. C., and Captain A. H. Sabin, A. D. C.

To the left of General Veazey were seated: Hon. Edward J. Phelps, Orator of the Day; Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D., Chaplain of the Day; ex-Governor B. F. Prescott, of New Hampshire; Governor Tuttle, and Adjutant-General Ayling, of New Hampshire; Governor Russell, and Adjutant-General Dalton, of Massachusetts; Major-General O. O. Howard, U. S. A.; General Russell A. Alger, of Michigan; ex-Governor R. S. Greene, of New Jersey; General R. N. Batchelder, U. S. A.; Hon. E. W. Halford, Private Secretary to President Harrison; Mr. Russell B. Harrison; Commander E. T. Woodward, U. S. N.; Hon. H. H. Powers, M. C.; Major-General Wm. Wells; Hon. Albert E. Richardson; ex-Lieutenant-Governor Urban A. Woodbury; Major-General Alexander S. Webb, of New York; General L. G. Kingsley, Major Hugh H. Baxter, of Rutland; Hon. George Grenville Benedict, Mr. Daniel W. Robinson, of Burlington; Adjutant-General Theodore S. Peck; Major E. H. Liscum, U. S. A.; Hon. Luther O. Greene, ex-Governor Roswell Farnham, of Vermont; Hon. A. F. Walker, of Chicago; ex-Governor Ebenezer J. Ormsbee, of Vermont; Hon. W. E. Barrett, Speaker of the House, of Massachusetts; Hon. Robert Roberts, of Burlington; Surgeon-General J. C. Rutherford; Colonel M. J. Horton, A. D. C.; Colonel W. H. H. Slack, A. D. C.; ex-Lieutenant-Governor Levi K. Fuller, commanding Fuller's Light Battery, V. N. G.; Major Henry C. Cushing, U. S. A., commanding Light Battery, 4th Artillery; Colonel Julius J. Estey, commanding First Regiment, V. N. G.; Lieutenant-Colonel Charles C. Kinsman, Major George H. Bond, Major John H. Watson, Major C. W. Evans, and others.

Among the ladies who were present at the banquet, were Mrs. Attorney-General Miller, Mrs. Edward J. Phelps, Mrs. General Alger, Mrs. General H. Henry Baxter, Mrs. Colonel Aldace F. Walker, Mrs. Horatio Loomis, Mrs. General Wheelock G. Veazey, Mrs. ex-Governor Ormsbee, Mrs. General Levi G. Kingsley; Mrs.



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Albert E. Richardson, of Burlington; Miss May Roberts, of Rutland; Miss Fifield, of Montpelier; Miss Brown, Miss Ormsbee, Mrs. Governor Fuller, Mrs. Colonel Estey, Mrs. Colonel Hooker, Mrs. Senator Morrill, Mrs. Colonel Smalley, Mrs. ex-Governor Farnham, Mrs. ex-Governor Pingree, Mrs. Colonel Powell, Mrs. General James S. Peck, Mrs. General Theodore S. Peck, Miss Shattuck, Miss Mary Agnes Peck; Mrs. John King, Miss King, of New York; Mrs. General J. G. McCullough, Mrs. Jennings, the Misses McCullough; Mrs. Governor Tuttle, of New Hampshire; Mrs. General Ayling; Mrs. Dr. Jenney; Mrs. Colonel Kopper, of New York; Mrs. Captain R. W. Hoyt, Mrs. Captain Childs, Mrs. Judge Henry, Miss Wood, Miss Brush, Miss Stacy, Miss Staniford, Mrs. General Alfred, Miss Gilmore, Miss Lowell, Mrs. Colonel Horton; Miss Mary Roberts and Miss Caroline M. Roberts, of Burlington; Mrs. W. E. Hawks, the Misses Hawks, Mrs. Colonel Abbott, Mrs. Colonel E. D. Bennett, Mrs. Major R. J. Coffey, Mrs. Colonel Scott, Mrs. Major Valentine, Miss Valentine, Miss Agnes Robinson and others. The arrangement of seats is outlined on page 104, which see.

THE BANQUET AS SPREAD. — It may be of interest to know the amount of food served, and the manner in which the great quantity was placed on the attractive tables, and other details of the work. The list of food, as written out by the caterer, is as follows: 2,950 pounds of meats, 1,100 pounds of lobster, 200 dishes of potato salad, 175 dishes of sardine salad, 700 quarts of Saratoga chips, 4,225 rolls, 225 pounds of table butter, 350 dishes of wine jelly, 500 pounds of cake, 1,150 quarts of ice-cream, sherbets, etc., 50 gallons of spun sugar, 325 melons, 2,250 bananas, 2 barrels of apples, 700 pounds of grapes, 15 bushels of pears, 400 cucumbers, 30 gallons of pickles, 16 gallons of olives, 8 bushels of tomatoes, 500 pounds of sugar, 225 gallons of coffee, 120 gallons of tea, 200 gallons of cream.

To spread the tables there were used 1,400 yards of linen, 4,000 napkins, 250 towels, 36,185 pieces of china, 17,500 pieces of silver.

The transportation from Boston pressed into service three freight cars and one refrigerator car, containing all the provisions, which the Fitchburg railroad, through strict orders to the train despatcher, "watched" from time of starting until their safe arrival in Bennington; with instructions in case of accident to notify the caterer at once. A carriage was kept at call, in order that the damage, if any occurred, could be repaired; and much credit is due General Superintendent Adams for the facilities supplied, — all of which contributed to the success of the dinner.

The caterer, further, says: Ten men were employed upon the camp-ground for ten days, in unpacking and preparing the wares, also in clearing up and packing for return; sixty waiters setting the tables, besides cooks, ice-cream men and others. They were assisted in the service of the dinner by 350 young ladies, and gentlemen, of Bennington.

THE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE. — Toward the close of the bau-

quet, The President was driven to General McCullough's residence at North Bennington, and his party followed afterward. It was a source of regret that these distinguished guests could not be present at the Pyrotechnic display of the evening, under the management of the Committee, of whom A. P. Childs was chairman. President Harrison left Bennington for Saratoga, N. Y., Thursday morning, August 20th. Before leaving he said to a reporter: "I have been much pleased with my visit, and the people of Vermont may well be delighted with yesterday's celebration."

PERSONAL AND COMPLIMENTARY. — Too much praise cannot be accorded His Excellency, Governor Carroll S. Page and Staff; the members of the Centennial Commission; to Brigadier-General Wm. L. Greenleaf, Chief Marshal, and Staff; the State, and Bennington Committees, and all members of the different organizations, in the preparation and execution of the ceremonies connected with the grand Celebration and Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument on the 19th of August, 1891. From the beginning to the end, everything moved along without a hitch or jar, an occurrence rarely known, and worthy of record, the entire management showing careful thought, wonderful executive ability and attention to details.

Governor Page, and each member of his Staff, will always remember with great pleasure the kindly assistance tendered them by the members of the different committees, President Hugh Henry of the Board of Trustees, and Major and Mrs. Robert J. Coffey of the Vermont Soldiers' Home, as well as by the citizens of Bennington, and thank them one and all for the assistance rendered, the result of which was the grand and most successful celebration ever witnessed in Vermont.

THE PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY. — This, the closing part of the celebration for the people generally, was arranged upon a plan in harmony with other portions of the exercises. The display was colossal in its proportions, and thousands witnessed it, seated upon the spacious grounds to the North of the Soldiers' Home. It was presented in four sections, and consisted: First, of the prelude display of general firework designs, devices and set pieces. Second, the *fac-simile* of the Monument, in lines of fire. Third, the tribute to Vermont's Centennial. Fourth, the grand historical pageant, or fire pictures, representing the heroic scenes of Vermont's past history. Preceding the opening of the evening's exhibit, a grand illumination of the exhibition grounds occurred, producing a lustrous glow, extending the length and breadth of the enclosure, and, while burning, revealed the various designs, devices, mottoes and special features prepared for the occasion.



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The exhibition, proper, began with a National salute from marooned bombs, echoing from hill to hill, in honor of the day and occasion. This was followed by a magnificent display of aerial fireworks, consisting of 12, 18, and 30-inch shells, from mortar guns, showing examples of stellar gerbs, meteoric showers, gyral rosettes, dragons, chain-lights, whirling globes, ærolites, sparkling prisms, cometic shells, saucissions, floral bouquets, etc.; continued by flights of rockets employed to exhibit all the best varieties lately introduced; displaying groups of floral wreaths, star bouquets, sun-fire showers, electric flames, Japanese wheels, willow trees, exploding and contorting serpents, floating star-signals, changeable and magnesium lights, in great variety; continued with heavy batteries of Roman candles, massed in groups and sections about the grounds, and displaying great wheat-sheafs of colored star-clouds and silver mists, followed by golden fountains of the largest size, fired in unison, and producing the effect of living geysers of fire, or sparkling scintillations, spouting upwards from 20 to thirty feet high; and continued with spiral wheels or magic rings, displayed in groups of three, five and seven, which flew upward and exhibited floral centres, after which, the First Section of the exhibit was presented, consisting of the following seven original designs:

The Star of America. — A magnificent star design, composed of mystic bands of sapphire flame, moved in swift rotation, mutating to surrounding zones, encircling crimson and emerald fires, flashing in sheeny splendor; changed to the "Star of America," comprising star-points, shining in a still expanse of unbroken rays, of incandescent flame, terminating with a copious shower of reflective rayonnants heavily charged with marooned gerbs.

Bands of Orion. — This superb piece commenced with a radiant sun of Chinese fires, with a centre of dazzling flame, shooting out rays of brilliant light, mutating to a representation of "Bands of Orion," composed of a large array of richly colored saxons, rotating around a common centre, and gerbs of powerful calibre, discharging sparkling circles of scintillating light, that extended over an immense surface, ending with a grand marooned explosion.

The Kaleidoscope. — This revolving piece opened with a display of *contra* rotating belts of Chinese and Japanese fires, which, by a sudden transformation became the arena for rapid evolutions of countless angles of amethyst, ruby, azure and agate jets, and combinations of beautiful colors.

The Pleiades. — A revolving belt of jessamine fires, encircling in rapid evolutions an opaque centre, which was suddenly filled with a scroll formed of crimson and emerald lance-work, mutating to

"The Pleiades," composed of a circle of seven stars in red, white and blue fires, enclosing a central star wrought in appropriate colors.

The Magic Rings. — Circles of sparkling flame waving rapidly around opaque centres, which were suddenly filled with belts of interchanging fires, decorated with richly colored jets and alternate rosettes.

The Iriscope. — Double revolving belts of brilliant and jessamine fires, rotating in *contra* directions, leaving a dark and opaque centre. Suddenly from this centre radiated bright lines of crimson, azure, emerald and amethystine hues, traversing the entire surface of the design in every direction, and in rapid succession, yet so arranged that every color appeared separate and distinct.

Arthusian Fountain. — An imitation of rushing waters, whose silver cadences breathed a murmur, laugh and ring, amid a wealth of ciliated spur-fires.

Preceding the Second Division of the exhibit a general display of heavy bomb-shells was fired from mortar guns, showing beautiful combinations and groupings of colors and designs, followed by the "Design of the Battle Monument," or a pyrotechnic representation of the Battle Monument, about 35 feet in height.

A display of exhibition rockets, parachute, balloon signals, etc., preceded the Third Section of the exhibit, or tribute to Vermont's Centennial. This composition was designed and dedicated to the Centennial of Vermont's history as a State of the great Republic. An American Eagle with extended pinions clasped in its talons the Olive-branch of Peace and the Shield of the Union. Around a border of artistic design glowed and scintillated, in variegated pyrotechnic hues of diamond and protean lance-work, the motto: "In the Sisterhood of the States." Below, on a vertical base, appeared the legend: "Vermont, March 4, 1791." Above the whole shone an arc of thirteen stars, emblematic of the Original Thirteen States, while in clear field, springing from the head of the eagle, and flashing in the silvery majesty of a dazzling electric glory, appeared the fourteenth star.

Preceding the Fourth Section of this display, a superb magnetic illumination took place from an extended arc of hanging prismatic lights. A line of 500 feet in length produced a rainbow of changeable colors of long duration and magnificent effect, and as it expired star-sown bombs turned the darkness of night into a blaze of royal splendor, introducing the grand climax of the Centennial Celebration: "An Historical Pageant."

On the canvas of night rose the green hills and the forest primeval, while rolling down from the mountains, rippled and



John S. Holden.

laughed a crystal stream meandering through the lowlands, and over its waves glided a canoe, paddled by an Indian whose war-paint was distinctly seen as he rowed his bark through the foaming rapids. Then appeared the tableau of Ethan Allen, as he stood with his Green Mountain Boys at the gates of the citadel of Ticonderoga. Then followed the motto: "May 10, 1775," where the renowned warrior was portrayed in that critical moment when Captain Delaplace demanded: "By whose authority do you call upon me to surrender?" Allen was represented in the act of raising his sword as if to strike, while he replied in the words of the accompanying legend: "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." The next scene enacted, in the pageant, was a colossal likeness of "Parson Allen," the fighting parson of the Revolution, in Continental costume. The scene represented was the Parson's famous appeal to the enemy. (See page 130.) Then appeared General Stark pointing to the distant foe, while with stentorian voice he cried: "You see the Red Coats, they are ours, or Molly Stark sleeps a widow to-night." (See page 76.) Then instantly followed the fierce cannonading of the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, of which Stark said, in his official report, "It was the hottest I ever saw." Then salvos on salvos of artillery announced the victory, and out of this serenely shone a *fac-simile* of the State seal of Vermont, with the legend, "Vermont, Freedom and Unity."

This grand *finale* consisted of twelve separate and distinct pieces, any one of which would adorn the proudest festival.

GOING HOME. — The assemblage dispersed after the fireworks, and a large number of the visiting organizations and individuals, from all parts of the State, left on the late evening and the early morning trains.

THE NEWSPAPER FORCE. — It was a large and lively corps of newspaper correspondents that appeared for duty at the Centennial, and an extensive collection of news matter was sent out, both by wire and through the mails. The State press was represented, on the active working force, by Messrs. Perkins, McGuirk, Dodge and Thomas, of the Rutland *Herald*; Messrs. Gates and Kilbourn, of the Burlington *Free Press*; Greene, of the St. Albans *Messenger*; the New England Associated Press was represented by Messrs. Stillson, Smith and Sault; the United Press, by Bain, of Washington; the New York Associated Press, by Tyson, of the *Tribune*; the Boston *Herald* by Perry; the Boston *Traveller* by French; the Boston *Journal* by Forbes, Ingalls and Beals; the Boston *Globe* by Mrs. McGuirk; the New York *Herald* by Krotel; the New York

Press by Captain Clay; the *Illinois State Journal* by E. S. Walker; the *Troy Times* by Allen, and Parker; the *Troy Press* by Ryan, and Cooley; the *Troy Telegram* by Lord; the *New England Magazine* by Wood; the *Springfield Republican* by Cooke; the *Holyoke Transcript* by J. H. Skinner; George S. Fisk of *The Bennington Banner* staff, and *Bennington Reformer* by J. H. Livingston. Two or three other papers were, doubtless, represented, but the names of their workers we did not learn. *The Bennington Banner* office was the press headquarters, and the newspaper men worked together most harmoniously. There was an abundance of work, and headquarters was a busy place till far into "the wee sma' hours" daily.

CHAPTER IV.

AUXILIARY EVENTS, AND DOCUMENTARY HISTORY.

THE ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING.—The harmonious blending of the military and the civic societies, noted in the preceding chapter, calls for especial mention. The expense, be it remembered of their participation, was borne by themselves, and cheerfully paid, too, because of a dominant public-spirit that pervades the respective memberships. Manifestly, therefore, no history of the great celebration would be complete which did not include a sketch of the preparatory proceedings of the Commands that added so much to the spectacular effect of the Grand Procession.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.—R. E. Will F. Lewis, Grand Commander of the Knights Templars of Vermont, in his annual address before the Grand Conclave June 9, A.O., 773, said: "On May 24th I received from the Governor of the State, a cordial invitation to the Knights Templars of Vermont, to unite with other military and civic organizations in celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the admission of Vermont into the Union, and to dedicate the Battle Monument at Bennington. * * * I acknowledged the receipt of the invitation, and stated that I would lay the matter before this Body at this time, and that the decision would be at once communicated. I therefore recommend that action be taken upon the invitation, and a suitable answer returned."

This was referred, on motion of R. E. Alfred A. Hall, to a committee consisting of the first four officers of the Grand Commandery, who reported: "The Committee to whom was referred the R. E. Grand Commander's address, relating to the invitation of the Governor to attend and participate in the parade at Bennington, August 19th, beg leave to report: 'That they have considered

the matter and have as far as possible obtained the opinion of Templars from the various portions of the State, * * * and recommend that the invitation be accepted.' "

This report was signed by Will F. Lewis, Marsh O. Perkins and George W. Squier. After discussion, on motion of Past Grand Commander Bacon, the Governor's invitation was unanimously accepted. The following resolution was, also, unanimously adopted :

" *Resolved*, That the first four officers to be elected to-day be a committee to ascertain the number of Sir Knights who will attend the exercises at Bennington, August 19th, next, and to make arrangements for transportation, and all other arrangements that may be necessary to make the trip a success."

The committee, thus constituted, consisted of Sir Kittredge Haskins, R.: E.: Grand Commander; Sir Marsh O. Perkins, R.: E.: Deputy Grand Commander; Sir George W. Squier, E.: Grand Generalissimo; Sir Robert J. Wright, E.: Grand Captain-General. Several "General Orders" were promulgated to promote the attendance in full ranks at Bennington, and, among other things, the Grand Commander said: "It is of the utmost importance that we make a highly creditable appearance in the parade. We owe this to ourselves, as an organization of Templars, and to our State."

On page 72, of this volume, will be found the Commanderies that responded, classified in order of rank. It was a handsome showing that the Vermont Knights Templars made in the parade, and they fully deserved the applause with which they were greeted along the line of march. Every Commandery in the State was represented, and the magnificent uniforms and Knightly bearing of the wearers added attractiveness and dignity to the moving column. During the march, the Templars formed crosses, triangles and other fancy figures. A mounted Command escorted the Grand Commandery, while the other Knights escorted (in conjunction with the Putnam Phalanx), the old Baum cannon.

The transportation arrangements were early placed in charge of Sir Silas W. Cummings, of the Central Vermont Railroad, E.: Grand Sword-Bearer, and the cars brought together, as below stated, were known as "The K. T. Train." The elegantly appointed vestibuled train attracted much attention, being designated and decorated as such, in an attractive manner. The following story of "The K. T. Train" has been prepared, especially for this volume, by *Frater* Cummings, at the request of the Editor :

As soon as the vote of the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templars of Vermont, taken at its Annual Conclave in June, 1891, deciding as a body to attend the Bennington Battle Monument

Dedication, was made known, the applications for transportation disclosed the necessity for an unusual effort to provide the proper facilities. The only feasible plan, which presented itself, was to charter sleeping cars, therefore, negotiations were opened with the Wagner Palace Car Company, resulting in chartering, to meet the requirements, eighteen fine sleeping cars to carry both the Knights Templars, and the Cantons of Patriarchs Militant, I. O. O. F.

A schedule was prepared for a special train to run as follows: Leaving St. Albans at 8.30, P. M., Tuesday, August 18th, from which point the pilgrimage started with Lafayette Commandery, No. 3, K. T., accompanied by the St. Albans Brigade Band, and Canton Franklin, P. M. At Burlington there was added to the train Burlington Commandery, No. 2, with its commissary car, and Canton Lafayette, with the Sherman Band. Also, joining here, were the following Commanderies of K. T.: Malta, No. 10, from Newport; Mount Zion, No. 9, from Montpelier, and Palestine, No. 5, from St. Johnsbury, with their commissary cars. At Middlebury, Mt. Calvary Commandery, No. 1, [mounted Command], joined the train with their sleeping car.

On arrival at Rutland the above train, consisting of twelve sleeping cars and three commissary cars, was run through to Bennington, as the first section; followed by the other bodies which had massed at Rutland, comprising the following: Beauseant Commandery, No. 7, K. T., of Brattleboro, escorting the Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Kittredge Haskins, with the Brattleboro Band; Canton Palestine, of Patriarchs Militant, of Brattleboro; Vermont Commandery, No. 4, K. T., of Windsor, with Drum Corps, and Killington Commandery, No. 6, K. T., of Rutland. This was the second section, and consisted of six sleeping cars and one commissary car. Canton Montpelier, Patriarchs Militant, went in a sleeping car, on the regular trains to Bennington, during the night of the 17th.

After the ceremonies of the 19th, and the fireworks that evening, the train carrying the above bodies was run in two sections to Rutland; there dividing, those going East from Rutland, stopping over one train for rest and refreshment, and those going North moving forward immediately toward their respective destinations.

There were moved, as described above, nine Commanderies of Knights Templars, four Cantons of Patriarchs Militant, three bands, and one drum corps, on time and without injury to any one.

A General Order was issued tendering the thanks of the Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Kittredge Haskins, to the several railroads in the State; and the different bodies, named above, also, passed



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resolutions of thanks for courtesies received, and highly eulogized the officials of the different railroads for the excellent means of transportation provided. The General Superintendent of the Wagner Palace Car Company, Mr. C. D. Flagg, and his able assistants, Messrs. Yager, and Wagner, were at Bennington, and gave their personal attention to the care of their sleeping cars, and the comfort of the occupants.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the officials, and the employes, of the Bennington & Rutland Railway, for the masterly manner in which they handled their trains, on a one-track road, with no accident or injury to a single passenger. In the railroad history of this country there have been few, if any, parallel cases, where, laboring under such disadvantages, so many trains have been moved successfully and all in perfect safety.

Such is the history of "The K. T. Train," and we close in the congratulatory words of the Grand Commander's "General Orders, No. 2," referred to above: "The Grand Commander takes this method of thanking the officers and members of the Grand Commandery and of the Subordinate Commanderies, who, in response to his order, assembled at Bennington on the 19th, inst. * * *

He congratulates the several Commanderies upon their proficiency in drill, their soldierly bearing, their magnificent appearance and Knightly conduct. The generous applause that greeted them along the line of march was most deservedly bestowed. Never before have the Templars of Vermont, convened in so large numbers; it was an occasion that will be long remembered and never regretted by any one of the Sir Knights who were present in uniform and participated therein."

THE PATRIARCHS MILITANT. — An invitation, from the Governor of Vermont, having been issued to General John C. Underwood, Commander of the Army, Patriarchs Militant, the uniformed branch of the I. O. O. F., and accepted, a large gathering of Odd Fellows took action thereon at Montpelier, June 3d. The occasion was the annual sessions of the Grand Bodies of the Order, and the object of the meeting was stated to be the proper reception of Past Grand Sire Underwood, and the Order's relation to the Vermont Centennial, at Bennington, August 19th. Colonel Norman M. Puffer, Department Commander of the Patriarchs Militant, presided.

The Editor of this volume is on record as suggesting an organization, consisting of prominent and influential members of the Order, to ensure a full attendance in uniform, and a reception to ex-Governor Underwood, that should be at once a credit to the Order and an honor to the State. Henry Clark, P. G. M., stated, as his

opinion, that it was the most important event that had ever fallen to the lot of the Order in Vermont (it being the first time, in its history, that so distinguished an official of the Order had visited the State), and that it was incumbent to receive the honored guest, in such a manner, as comports with the dignity of the occasion. Grand Representative William D. Wilson, Past Grand Master N. C. Hyde, Grand Representative Henry W. Hall and Major L. C. Grant followed in endorsement; and, on motion of William D. Wilson, a committee was created as follows, to constitute a board of reception and entertainment, to be known as the "Centennial Commission": Norman M. Puffer, Bennington, Chairman; Henry W. Hall, Burlington; Henry Clark, Rutland; Hugh Henry, Chester; Nelson C. Hyde, Poultney; Wm. D. Wilson, St. Albans; Henry L. Stillson, Bennington; L. C. Grant, Burlington; N. P. Bowman, St. Johnsbury; Myron J. Horton, Poultney; J. W. Goodell, Burlington; Rev. A. J. Hough, Montpelier; Henry E. Parker, Bradford; W. D. Chandler, St. Albans; D. G. Furman, Swanton; F. E. Alfred, Newport; L. R. Robinson, Derby Line; Henry E. Randall, Island Pond; L. V. Green, Rutland; Julian H. Jones, Bradford; J. G. Harvey, White River Junction; B. L. Lockwood, Springfield; S. D. McLeod, Bellows Falls; J. H. Jackson, Barre; D. E. Tasker, Brattleboro; G. W. Knights, Lyndonville; Joseph K. Egerton, Northfield; C. R. Bagley, Montpelier.

Under date of July 10, 1891, Colonel Puffer, in General Orders, No. 10, said: "It is expected that all Field, Staff, and Line Officers, will exert their influence in calling together the whole Command at Bennington, the coming August. Everything bids fair for a fine display in all the branches of our Order. I desire the Commandants of Cantons to report to me the number of swords that will be in line, as early as August 1st. * * * Let me say, in closing, that the responsibility of the success of our part of the Centennial depends largely on you, and I expect you to treat it with enthusiasm."

Meantime, the regiments in Massachusetts and New York, contiguous, had been invited by the Odd Fellows Centennial Commission to participate in the parade and festivities of the occasion. The Underwood Hussars, of Boston, a mounted Troop, tendered their services as special escort to the Commander of Patriarchs Militant, and Bennington Odd Fellows made preparation to receive their guests. The result is shown in pages 73, 74. In the Grand Parade the Patriarchs Militant, acted as escort to the distinguished guests in the carriages of the Third Division (including the Presidential Review party from the Reviewing Stand to the Monument),

and received many ovations for their soldierly bearing and fine military appearance.

THE ODD FELLOWS' RECEPTION. — Odd Fellows Hall was filled Tuesday evening, the 18th, to welcome Hon. John C. Underwood, Past Grand Sire, and other distinguished members of the Order. The Daughters of Rebekah took an important part in the exercises. Among the more prominent visitors, we note: John W. Bourlet, Grand Master, New Hampshire; Jay B. Crawford, Grand Master, Massachusetts; Peter J. Trumpler, Grand Master, Rhode Island; George H. Cowell, Grand Master, Connecticut; E. W. Jester, Grand Master, Delaware. Grand Master J. W. Goodell, of Vermont, presided. The address of the evening was delivered by General Underwood, who was followed by the five Grand Masters aforesaid. This was General Underwood's first visit to Vermont, his impressions of the people, and particularly the members of the Order, in all its branches, were "certainly very good and flattering," and it had never before been his pleasure to address an audience comprising, within its numbers, five *active* Grand Masters. The hall was elaborately decorated for the occasion.

THE DECORATION OF CHIVALRY. — One of the principal features of the Centennial for Odd Fellows, aside from their participation in the Grand Procession, was the conferring of the Grand Decoration of Chivalry, at five o'clock, P. M., of Wednesday. This occurred on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home, and would have been witnessed by thousands had the fact been generally known. This is a decoration of honor conferred only upon those who by some meritorious service in the Order, or by reason of age and official rank are entitled to a special mark of distinction. A full ceremonial requires the presence of four Cantons, a number of Assistants, Maids of Honor, the Commander and Staff. Owing to the limited time on this occasion the field movements were omitted. The Decoration was conferred by General Underwood in person. The Assistants were: Misses Tena Swift, Frances E. Stillson, Ella Daley, Bertha Griswold; with little Bessie Sibley as Maid of Honor, who affixed the decorations. Colonel Wm. H. Ralph (Second Massachusetts Regiment), acted as Adjutant-General; Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Wilson, A. D. C., and Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Hall, Chaplain-General. The military floor-work was enacted by the Underwood Hussars, of Boston (who won so much *eclat* as escort to the Commander of the Army, Patriarchs Militant, during the procession), Lieutenant-Colonel Charles M. Campbell, commanding. The two flanking Cantons were composed of Chevaliers selected from the several Cantons comprising the First Regiment of Vermont, Colonel

N. M. Puffer, commanding. They were assisted by the large and handsomely uniformed Staff, together with the various Bannerets, Standard Bearers, Trumpeters, Herald, Guards and Sentinels, with attendant colors and magnificent banners, constituting a military pageant which is seldom seen in a fraternity ceremonial. Sherman's Military Band, of Burlington, made complete the martial tableau, on the picturesque field of "cloth and gold," in the beautiful valley of the Walloomsac, under the shadow of the Green Mountains, with the Battle Monument, they had just assisted in dedicating, standing as a sentinel to the west of the line. (See illustration: "Camp Vermont, with Battle Monument in the Distance.") The following ladies were decorated: Mrs. N. M. Puffer, Mrs. H. L. Stillson, Mrs. J. W. Goodell, Mrs. H. W. Hall, Mrs. J. H. Ayres, Mrs. Geo. H. Harwood, Mrs. S. E. Morris. The Chevaliers receiving the Grand Decoration of Chivalry were: Colonel N. M. Puffer; Lieutenant-Colonel, L. C. Grant, and Grand Master Goodell; Captain J. C. Timpson, Sergeant John H. Ayres. This is the only Degree of Odd Fellowship that is given in public, and since its adoption by the Sovereign Grand Lodge, in 1887, has been a marked feature of Cantonments, State and National.

REUNION OF THE NINTH VERMONT REGIMENT.—General T. S. Peck's old command, the 9th Vermont Regiment, held its annual reunion at General Peck's headquarters-tent, on the grounds of "Camp Vermont," Tuesday afternoon, August 18, 1891. There were over one hundred members of the regiment present, as well as veterans from Vermont, and other regiments present in Bennington.

Among the distinguished guests, who attended this reunion, were Governor Page, of Vermont; ex-Governors Ormsbee, Farnham, and Pingree; Lieutenant-Governor Henry A. Fletcher; ex-Lieutenant-Governor U. A. Woodbury; Major-General Alexander S. Webb, of New York; General James M. Warner (11th Vermont); Major-General Joseph B. Carr, of Albany, N. Y.; Colonel G. G. Benedict, of Burlington; Colonel Geo. W. Hooker, of Brattleboro; Colonel Joel C. Baker, of Rutland, and others.

The roll of the Regimental Society was called, and several members of the Old Ninth were found to have passed "Over the river to the silent majority" since the last meeting.

Governor Page welcomed the veterans to his headquarters, and the Bennington Centennial. Colonel Benedict spoke most feelingly of Major-General George J. Stannard, first Colonel of the 9th Vermont, upon whose Staff he and Colonel Hooker served so faithfully and well at Gettysburg. Colonel Andross, the second Colonel of the regiment, also, alluded affectionately to General Stannard. Remarks



1. John W. Bourlet, Grand Master, New Hampshire. 2. Jerome W. Goodell, Grand Master, Vermont. 3. Jay B. Crawford, Grand Master, Massachusetts. 4. Hon. John C. Underwood, P.G.S., Lieutenant-General, Patriarchs Militant. 5. Peter J. Trumpler, Grand Master, Rhode Island. 6. George H. Cowell, Grand Master, Connecticut. 7. E. W. Jester, Grand Master, Delaware.

PROMINENT ODD FELLOWS, GUESTS OF VERMONT,

At Bennington, August 19, 1891.

were made by General Peck, Major Branch, Hon. Joel C. Baker, and others. The Society then proceeded to the election of officers, which are as follows: President, Colonel Dudley K. Andross, Bradford, Vt.; First Vice-President, General Theo. S. Peck, Burlington, Vt.; Second Vice-President, Sergeant George M. Lane, Springfield, Mass.; Secretary and Treasurer, Lieutenant Richard F. Parker, Coventry, Vt. Executive Committee: Major Charles F. Branch, M. D., Newport, Vt.; Captain Samuel H. Kelley, West Salisbury, Vt.; Captain Chas. W. Haskell, Westmoreland, N. H.; Private Myron Corbitt, Bennington, Vt.; Private A. W. Turner, Gardner, Mass.

The election of Colonel Andross to the Presidency, was an office to be permanent through life, the highest honor the members, of the Old Ninth Vermont, believe it in their power to bestow upon one who was so faithful to them during the war, and who has the good-will of the Society, and all who know him. The Secretary and Treasurer, Lieutenant R. F. Parker, was absent on account of sickness, much to the regret of those present, for it is by his patriotic and untiring work that the Ninth Regimental Society was started, and is so prosperous.

The Band of the First Regiment, National Guard, rendered excellent music during the Reunion. After the speech-making there was a general good time, telling stories and shaking hands, such as only those who have stood shoulder to shoulder, in "days that tried men's souls," have any idea of.

The Society adjourned, to meet again wherever the National Guard are encamped, for General Peck assured one and all that whenever he had a tent, or wherever he was in camp, the 9th Vermont Regiment were welcome to use his quarters for reunions.

The members of the Regiment met at this tent at six o'clock, and marched in a body to witness the dress parade of the National Guard of Vermont, which they enjoyed immensely, and the sight of which brought back many reminiscences of the war times with which they were so familiar.

JOHN A. LOGAN MOUNTED POST. — A Comrade of this Command (J. O. W.), contributes the following: John A. Logan Mounted Post left North Orwell, at 9 o'clock, A. M., August 18th, with two car-loads of horses, and reached Bennington about 2 o'clock, P. M. Quarters were assigned them in the new annex to the Soldiers' Home, with the horses picketed in an adjacent grove. Commander Hibbard received orders to report to General Greenleaf for duty, at 7 o'clock, the next morning. At that hour the Post was sent, mounted, to the residence of General McCullough, at North Bennington, to escort The President and party to the Soldiers'

Home, with strict orders to have him there at 10 o'clock, sharp. At 8.30 o'clock, The President had not breakfasted. At 9 o'clock, none of the teams were ready, and Commander Hibbard began to stir things up, and at 9.15 o'clock, the Troop moved out by fours, followed by the President's carriage, drawn by four white horses, accompanied by several carriages with other distinguished guests. After getting the column fairly into the street, the order was given to trot, and then commenced such a ride as none of us had seen since "Early went flying up the Valley." The boys appreciated their opportunity, and were determined to show Comrade Harrison that the days of '61 and '65 were not entirely forgotten. No halts were allowed, and, promptly at 9.45 o'clock, the boys landed the Presidential party at the Home, with every horse smoking and nobody hurt. Twenty-eight mounted men and six carriages, five miles in thirty minutes, over a country road,—we had saved our reputation and our "wagon train," and had a repetition of old experiences, that many of us will not again enjoy, and none of us will forget.

The Post was immediately placed in the column as escort for General Greenleaf, commanding the parade, and held that position during the march, receiving a smile of recognition, and a bow from The President while passing the Grand Stand.

This Centennial occasion will long be remembered, as a "red-letter day," by the Comrades of John A. Logan Post.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC. — Manifestly a celebration that did not include the G. A. R., would have been an anomaly in history. The Revolutionary Fathers founded the Republic, and the Union Army saved it from destruction. An early invitation was forwarded to the Department of Vermont, and the Order was further honored in that its Commander-in-Chief, General Wheelock G. Veazey, was selected for President of the Day. Department Commander D. L. Morgan issued the following:

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT,
RUTLAND, July 24, 1891.

General Order Number Nine.

A cordial invitation to participate in the parade at Bennington, August 19th, at the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of Vermont's Admission to the Union and the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, having been extended by His Excellency, Governor Carroll S. Page, and accepted for the Department by the Commander, it is therefore earnestly requested of the Officers and Comrades of the various Posts that they at once begin preparation to be present on that occasion with full ranks.

Every Comrade possible should appear in the Grand Army of

the Republic uniform of blue, with hat and cord, white gloves, wearing his badge upon his breast and a sprig of cedar in his hat.

It is suggested where Posts can send delegates only that they be consolidated with adjacent Posts, but in every case they should bring the colors. * * *

The Aides-de-Camp, on the Department Staff, except such as may be specified for duty with the column, are hereby detailed as a Body Guard to our Comrade, President Benjamin Harrison, and will report as soon as possible to Comrade John S. Drennan, Chief of Staff, Hardwick, Vt., stating whether they will be present and in full uniform or not. * * *

By Command of

D. L. MORGAN, *Department Commander.*

(Official.)

C. C. KINSMAN, *Assistant-Adjutant-General.*

The response to this order was one of enthusiasm, as the reader will note by the mention made of Veterans throughout this volume. While a large proportion of the 625 who participated in the Grand Procession came to town on early trains the 19th, yet over 200 were here, arriving Monday and Tuesday, remaining until Thursday. Department Commander Morgan established headquarters on the Soldiers' Home grounds, and the Veteran Encampment occupied the attractive street of tents situated to the North of the Home, near the site of the Pyrotechnic display. The large body of Union Veterans, participating in the parade, attracted marked attention, and, with their Mounted Post (above), stood second in interest to none other organization represented.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.—One of the most notable gatherings in Bennington, during Centennial Week, was the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Tuesday afternoon, August 18th. This Society took a prominent part in the Celebration of Vermont, and, also, in the Dedication of the Battle Monument. The State Society established headquarters on the Soldiers' Home grounds, Monday, in a canvas pavilion, 25x50 feet in size, furnished with chairs, tables, and cots, and it was frequently resorted to by the visiting Sons. The main entrance was handsomely decorated with the National S. A. R. Coat-of-Arms; above it the words: "Vermont Society," while below was a banner bearing the title: "Sons of the American Revolution." Before the tent, daily, were displayed the flags belonging to the Society, and described more fully on pages 134, 135. These headquarters were established Monday, as stated, and continued through the week. The site assigned was in front of the Home building, near the fountain, and contiguous to the Government headquarters. It served the intended purpose admirably.

The officers, and most of the members of the Vermont Society, were in Bennington on August 19th. The National Society was represented by President-General William Seward Webb, and other officers, and by many officers and members of State Societies. This is shown more fully by the Roster below. This Society was highly honored in that its President-General was selected, as special Aide-de-Camp, to attend President Harrison, and the Vermont Society by the fact that he was a member thereof. The Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was fittingly recognized, by the Centennial Commission, in the exercises of the Celebration. The visiting members, to the number of 75, formed a separate division, and were assigned by General Greenleaf, Chief Marshal, to a position of honor in the Grand Procession, — marching as a part of the escort to the captured British cannon. The S. A. R. division colors were borne by Colonel Wm. A. Crombie, and Mr. Daniel W. Robinson, of Burlington, who carried the two new, and beautiful silk flags of the Vermont Society, at the head of its line. (See pages 72, and 145.)

The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Society was called to order by Major A. B. Valentine, who, in a brief speech, welcomed the representatives of the National Society. He stated the plans of the State Society, regarding parade and banquet, and tendered all the freedom of the headquarters. The State Society then elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, John G. McCullough, North Bennington; Vice-President, H. Henry Powers, Morrisville; Secretary, Charles S. Forbes, St. Albans; Treasurer, Milton K. Paine, Windsor; Registrar, Henry L. Stillson, Bennington; Historian, G. Grenville Benedict, Burlington; Chaplain, Rev. Lucius M. Hardy, Burlington; Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Urban A. Woodbury, of Burlington, Chairman Board of Managers, seven in number.

It will be noted, below, that ex-Vice-President-General Wm. O. McDowell, of the National Society (accompanied by his daughter), was present during the 19th, and participated in the parade. Mr. McDowell was chairman of the committee that "nationalized" the work in connection with the "Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World," in New York harbor, and afterward invited a few of his fellow laborers to come together and organize a New Jersey Society. At this meeting a resolution was introduced inviting the associations in New York and Philadelphia to join them in an organization (of the descendants of the men who served in the War of the American Revolution), to send delegates to a meeting to be held in the "Long Room of Fraunces's Tavern," on the Centennial Day of the inauguration of George Washington, as the First President of



W. Lawrence Webb

the United States. In sending this invitation Mr. McDowell wrote to the Governor of every State, asking the use of the Senate Chamber as the meeting place for the organization of societies made up of such descendants. The Governor of Vermont responded, at once, by the appointment of a committee, of which Adjutant-General Peck was one, to wait upon Mr. McDowell for instructions. They did, and the result was an organization of the Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. This historic statement may be of interest in connection with the Vermont Society's reception and entertainment of the gentlemen named below.

The Sons of the American Revolution showed up finely in the parade, with Major A. B. Valentine as Chief Marshal, and Colonel Scott, Captain Safford, and Colonel Paine, as Aides. Colonel Scott formed the column at "Camp Vermont," previous to the start, the "Sons" numbering 100 (including the officers of the National organization, and representatives from Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut who rode in carriages). The venerable Colonel Pierce, of Rhode Island, who personally knew and remembered General Stark, was present and had with him, on this occasion, a powder-horn, which his father captured from a Hessian whom he had shot at the Battle of Bennington.

The representatives of the several State Societies, Sons of the American Revolution, met at the Soldiers' Home after the ceremonies, and Hon. Edwin S. Barrett, of Massachusetts, was elected President, and Hon. Luther L. Tarbell, of the Massachusetts Society, Secretary. The meeting voted to prepare a testimonial to be presented the Vermont Society for the hospitality extended during their visit.

This volume, in this department, is enriched by the contributions of the Hon. Charles E. Staniels, of Concord, N. H.; the Hon. Edwin S. Barrett, of Concord, Mass., and Hon. Henry Hall, of New York, Historian-General. The valuable papers of the first two, relating to their respective States, and the complete Roster, given by the latter, are of permanent interest, and, as such, will be highly appreciated by the reader, as follows :

The New Hampshire Society at Bennington. — New Hampshire's second historical participation at Bennington, was in strong contrast to the conditions and circumstances surrounding and influencing that body, of sturdy pioneers, whose patriotism under their chosen leader, the gallant and independent Stark, led to results which, it is conceded, would have been materially changed had Burgoyne's attempt to capture the stores at Bennington been met by less vigorous measures, in 1777.

The representation of New Hampshire at Bennington, in 1891, was of peaceful import, and was the result of an invitation issued by

the State of Vermont, through her Chief Magistrate, Governor Carroll S. Page, to join in the dedicatory ceremonies, by which the Bennington Battle Monument was to become the property of the State of Vermont, through the loyal officers of an Association, of which ex-Governor Benjamin F. Prescott, one of New Hampshire's honored sons, was President. Of the various New Hampshire organizations, represented, the Sons of the American Revolution, of this State, have reason to be proud of their participation in the attendant ceremonies, not only as recognized lineal descendants of the heroes of one of the decisive battles of the American Revolution, but from the fact that of the delegation, present, were the nearest living relatives of the noted leader, whose loyalty to his country was second to none, and whose sturdy patriotism, recognizing no obstacle, inspired his followers to deeds of heroism. One of the important duties, devolving upon the New Hampshire Society, was the escort of a portrait of General Stark, by Tenney, which by the indefatigable efforts of its President, Hon. George C. Gilmore, had been secured for the occasion, from the original sketch, by Miss Hannah Crowninshield, of Salem, Mass., in 1810. This portrait was procured by the State of New Hampshire, being provided for by a special appropriation of the Legislature, and placed in charge of ex-Governor Benjamin F. Prescott and Hon. George C. Gilmore, as an authorized committee, by the Governor and Council. (A fine reproduction of this painting is one of the illustrations of this volume.) With this party, also, was, perhaps, the most cherished relic of the day, a portion of the battle-flag of Stark, that he had used upon the battlefield, which the Monument overlooks, one hundred and fourteen years before, and which is now in the possession of his descendants.

The New Hampshire Society, upon receiving a general invitation from the State of Vermont, took early action, by appointing a committee consisting of Charles E. Staniels, John C. Ordway and Rev. C. L. Tappan, the Secretary, to perfect an organized representation at the coming celebration. The labors of this committee were materially lessened by the courtesy of the Governor of Vermont, who honored the Society with a special invitation to avail themselves of "Special privileges as the descendants of the men who fought with Stark."

Among the delegation of thirty, occupying a commodious Wagner car, were Hon. George C. Gilmore, of Manchester, who has done more than any other historian to assert, and substantiate the claims of New Hampshire at Bunker Hill and Bennington; Mr. Augustus H. Stark, Miss Elisabeth P. Stark, Miss Eleanor Gamble, great-grand-children of General Stark, Mrs. Jennie A. Osborne, a great-grandchild of the General, and Hon. H. K. Slayton, all of Manchester; Hon. John Kimball, Hon. John C. Linnehan, Hon. John C. Ordway, Rev. C. L. Tappan, Chas. E. Staniels, and Miss Mabel R. Staniels, of Concord; Hon. Alvin Burleigh, of Plymouth; General H. B. Titus, of New York City, and Dr. J. C. Eastman, of Hampstead, N. H. During the stay of the delegation at Bennington, every courtesy was extended, and every facility furnished to make the visit as pleasant as possible, and the Society is under last-

ing obligations to Governor Page, Adjutant-General Peck, and others of the Staff, for their unwearied exertions in its behalf.

The Massachusetts Society.—The Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, were represented at Bennington August 19th, last, on the occasion of the Dedication of the Battle Monument, by its President, Edwin S. Barrett, of Concord, and about forty members, including two men whose fathers fought at Bennington, viz.: John McClure, of Revere, and Joseph Hill, of Hyde Park, and both of these gentlemen were in their eighty-ninth year. Still another veteran was Dr. David Thayer, of Boston, with seventy-eight years to his credit; also, our Registrar, Luther L. Tarbell, of Marlboro, whose father experienced the sufferings at Valley Forge with Washington. These *own* Sons of the Revolution (this State Society has 27 such in membership), came with special pride to Bennington, to take part in the Dedication of the noble Monument, and with hearty zeal made the all-night journey, not fearing fatigue or sickness, impelled by the tender recollections of the past, and the patriotism of a ripe old age. President Barrett is the great-grandson of Colonel James Barrett, who commanded the Americans at Concord-Fight April 19, 1775, "When was made the first forcible resistance to British aggression," and his home in Concord is on the original battlefield where his grandfather commanded.

Among our number were lineal descendants of the Pilgrims and the Puritans, whose instincts were on the side of liberty of conscience, and against personal oppression. There were, also, sons and grandsons of the Minute-Men of Lexington, and Concord-Bridge, the latter place immortalized by Emerson, as the spot,—"Where the shot was fired heard round the world."

The Sons of the American Revolution have a special work to perform, that of urging, upon the Original Thirteen States, the duty of commemorating, by suitable monuments or tablets, the various battlefields of the Revolution, which will remain a lasting tribute to the participants therein, and a liberty-loving education to the youth of our land.

The Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded April 19, 1889, and has upon its rolls the names of more than five hundred members, with constant accessions. The annual meeting is held on the 19th of April, and the Fall field day on the 19th of October, the anniversary of the beginning, and the ending of the Revolutionary War. After the first conflict, Massachusetts soon rid herself of the English soldiery, and on the 17th of March, 1776,—about eleven months after Lexington and Concord,—the British fleet sailed out of Boston harbor, and Massachusetts' soil was free forever from the heel of the oppressor. But her sons were on every battlefield of the Revolution, and, through seven long and weary years, she gave her men, and her money with patriotic devotion to the cause of liberty.

It is a matter of public interest to know the number of troops enlisted during the Revolutionary War, 1775 to 1783, including Continental soldiers and militia from the Original Thirteen States, as compiled from the report of the Secretary of War May 10, 1790. It will be remarked that the figures, showing "population and per-

centage," are based on the census of 1790, seven years after the close of the war, but this was the first census taken that is reliable for *data*, and the relative change in the population during these seven years would not affect the computation :

	State.	Population.	Soldiers Furnished.	Per ct. of Popu- lation as Soldiers.
1.	Massachusetts	378,787.	92,562.	24.
2.	Virginia	747,610.	52,715.	7.
3.	Connecticut	237,946.	42,831.	18.
4.	Pennsylvania	434,373.	34,965.	8.
5.	South Carolina	249,043.	31,358.	12.
6.	New York	340,120.	29,843.	8.
7.	Maryland	319,728.	23,476.	7.
8.	North Carolina	393,751.	21,969.	5.
9.	New Jersey	184,139.	19,282.	10.
10.	New Hampshire	141,885.	18,289.	12.
11.	Georgia	82,548.	12,579.	15.
12.	Rhode Island	68,825.	11,692.	16.
13.	Delaware	59,096.	3,763.	6.

The Roster of Accredited Representatives. — From the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Dr. William Seward Webb, President-General, of Shelburne, Vermont; General John G. McCullough, of North Bennington, Vermont; Hon. Lucius P. Deming, of New Haven, Connecticut; Hon. Henry M. Shepard, of Chicago, Illinois; Alfred Stone, of Providence, Rhode Island; General Bradley T. Johnson, and Captain H. P. Goddard, of Baltimore, Maryland; Hon. Albert Edgerton, of St. Paul, Minnesota; John E. DeWitt, of Portland, Maine; Hon. Robert S. Green, of Elizabeth, and Josiah C. Pumpelly, of Morristown, New Jersey; W. H. Brearley, of Detroit, Michigan; Hon. Edwin S. Barrett, of Concord, Massachusetts; Hon. H. W. Bruce, of Louisville, Kentucky; George C. Gilmore, of Manchester, New Hampshire; A. J. Woodman, of Wilmington, Delaware; Rear-Admiral John L. Worden, U. S. N., of Washington, District of Columbia; Hon. Wm. Wirt Henry, of Richmond, Virginia; Colonel Thomas M. Anderson, U. S. A., of Oregon; General Alexander S. Webb, and Henry Hall, of New York City; Colonel Samuel W. Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas; Major-General Alexander S. Webb, Alexander S. Webb, Jr., and William Remsen Webb, of New York.

From the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Peter B. Fairchild, Henry E. Hatfield, Major William W. Morris, J. Lawrence Boggs, Jr., General William S. Stryker, George Wolcott Hubbell, Rev. Henry G. Smith, Clifford Stanley Sims, Dr. E. Hammond Doty, Hon. George A. Halsey, Appleton Morgan, Paul Revere, Colonel H. R. McElliott, General James F. Rusling, and Mr. Wm. O. McDowell (the latter was accompanied by his daughter, of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution).

From the District of Columbia Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Levi P. Morton, Vice-President of the United States; Hon. Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War; General F. G. Butterfield, General H. V. Boynton, General J. C. Breckinridge, Colonel Marshall McDonald, Colonel Myron M. Parker, Dr. Geo. Brown Goode, and A. Howard Clarke.

From the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Captain Frank K. Upham, U. S. A.

From the Indiana Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Hon. William H. English, of Indianapolis, and Newland T. de Pauw, of New Albany.

From the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Hon. Edwin S. Barrett, of Concord; Charles M. Green, M. D., of Boston; S. D. Salmon, of Somerville; Captain Nathan Appleton, H. D. Warren, H. V. Thayer, W. M. Buffum, and Edward S. Newton, of Boston; H. M. Chase, of Dorchester; B. S. Moulton, of Charlestown; Moses P. Palmer, of Groton; Charles H. Buss, of Woburn; F. W. Hale, of Rockbottom; Irving Hall, George O. Smith, and Nathan D. Harrington, of Somerville; George H. Cotting, Hudson; Luther L. Tarbell, of Marlboro; J. S. Orne, and John C. Hovey, Cambridge; R. L. Reed, Acton; N. L. Kendall, Boylston; John McClure, 88 years of age, son of a soldier who fought at Bennington; Joseph Hill, Hyde Park, 88 years of age, son of a soldier who fought at Bennington; John M. Rawson, East Douglas; Robert Elliott, of Somerville; Waldo Tuttle, of Acton; and David Thayer, M. D., Boston.

From the Rhode Island Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Alfred Stone, President; Hon. Amasa M. Eaton, the Rev. Edward O. Bartlett, and George Humphrey.

The following members of the Vermont Society, Sons of the American Revolution, were present at the celebration: Hon. Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War of the United States, President; General John G. McCullough, of North Bennington, Vice-President; Colonel Charles S. Forbes, of St. Albans, Secretary; Colonel Milton K. Paine, Windsor, Treasurer; Henry Leonard Stillson, Bennington, Registrar; Hon. George G. Benedict, Burlington, Historian; Rev. Lucius M. Hardy, Burlington, Chaplain; Hon. Carroll S. Page, Governor of Vermont; Hon. Theodore S. Peck, Adjutant-General of Vermont; General William Wells, ex-Lieutenant-Governor U. A. Woodbury, D. W. Robinson, Colonel B. B. Smalley, Colonel William A. Crombie, A. E. Richardson, Hon. C. W. Brownell, Jr., General William W. Henry, J. S. Pierson, Prof. S. W. Landon, Hon. Robert Roberts, Henry W. Hall, H. L. Walker, and E. B. Taft, of

Burlington; Hon. B. F. Fifield, Hon. H. A. Huse, T. C. Phinney, Captain D. F. Long, Thomas L. Wood, S. D. Clark, of Montpelier; Hon. J. W. Stewart, ex-Member of Congress, Henry L. Sheldon, of Middlebury; Hon. W. H. DuBois, Colonel R. J. Kimball, of West Randolph; ex-Governor Roswell Farnham, of Bradford; General William W. Grout, Member of Congress; E. W. Thompson, of Barton; Major H. H. Baxter, S. H. Kellogg, and Rockwood Barrett, of Rutland; Hon. H. H. Powers, Member of Congress, of Morrisville; A. S. Burbank, of Cavendish; Hon. Cassius Peck, of Brookfield; Colonel F. D. Proctor, of Proctor; Major A. B. Valentine, Dr. J. T. Shurtleff, Colonel Olin Scott, H. D. Fillmore, Hon. G. W. Harman, William E. Hawks, A. J. Dewey, George A. Robinson, E. J. Hall, H. S. Bingham, E. L. Bates, H. T. Cushman, E. L. Norton, William B. Sheldon, Hon. L. P. Norton, Rev. M. L. Severance, Colonel L. F. Abbott, C. H. Cone, Rev. Wm. B. Walker, Rev. Chas. R. Seymour, Alfred Robinson, Hon. Henry G. Root, Hon. John V. Carney, and Dr. E. B. Daley, of Bennington; Colonel H. F. Brigham, of Bakersfield; Colonel L. O. Greene, of Woodstock; ex-Lieutenant-Governor L. K. Fuller, Colonel H. E. Taylor, George A. Hines, and Colonel Julius J. Estey, of Brattleboro; Colonel Z. M. Mansur, of Island Pond; Colonel H. O. Clark, of Milton; General F. E. Alfred, of Newport; R. M. Colburn, of Springfield; Hon. M. H. Deming, and E. C. Woodworth, of Arlington; F. B. Jennings, and Henry D. Hall, of North Bennington; Colonel E. A. Chittenden, Colonel Alfred A. Hall, and Frank L. Greene, of St. Albans; Captain H. S. Foster, U. S. A., of North Calais; Hon. N. W. Fiske, of Isle la Motte; Hon. H. G. Hibbard, of Orwell; Surgeon Henry Janes, of Waterbury; Colonel E. Henry Powell, of Richford; Justin Kellogg, of Troy, N. Y.; E. W. Jewett, of Swanton; Eben P. Colton, of Irasburgh; John L. Burdette, of New York City; Rev. E. J. Walker, of Springfield, Illinois; Colonel M. J. Horton, of Poultney, and J. B. Hollister, of Pittsford.

From the New Hampshire Society, Sons of the American Revolution. — Geo. C. Gilmore, of Manchester, President; John Ballard, Reuben C. Danforth, Sumner A. Dow, David Webster, John C. Ordway, Charles E. Staniels, Mabel R. Staniels, John Kimball, Clarkson Dearborn, Charles Langdon Tappan, of Concord; James Mitchell, Augustus H. Stark, Edith Furbish Stark, Elisabeth P. B. Stark, Eleanor Gamble (a Stark), and Hon. Hiram K. Slayton, of Manchester; Orlando Bowman, of Cambridgeport, Mass.; Josiah C. Eastman, of Hampstead; and, as guests of the Society, the following: Charles Nutting, and Hon. John C. Linnehan, of Concord; General Herbert B. Titus, of New York City; Joseph Rowell, and

Jennie A. Osborne (the latter a Stark), of Manchester; Hon. Alvah B. Burleigh, and D. Paul Burleigh, of Plymouth; Rev. R. C. Drisko, of East Derry, and H. W. Forbush, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

MOODUS DRUM CORPS.—Considerable attention was attracted by the Moodus Drum Corps, of Hartford, Conn., during the Centennial. They were in Continental dress, and their drums were of the ancient, deep pattern, every one about as large as the bass drum of to-day. The bass drums were played with two sticks. There were fifteen in the corps, and as they marched down the street the complimentary remarks were many. Their music could be plainly heard for a long distance, and would have aroused martial sensations in a stone post. If this was a fair sample, the Continental army marched to inspiring music.

NEW HAMPSHIRE AT THE CENTENNIAL.—Governor Tuttle was most liberal in the preparation for the representatives of his State at the Celebration. In addition to the detail of three companies of the New Hampshire National Guard, one from each regiment, and the Governor's special escort, the Amoskeag Veterans, over a hundred strong, invitations were issued by him to many prominent gentlemen throughout the State, the following being accepted: Hon. James Farrington, Hon. Henry B. Quimby, Hon. George A. Ramsdell, Hon. John M. Whipple, and Hon. Edwin C. Lewis, who compose the Governor's Executive Council; Hon. Jacob D. Gallinger, United States Senator; Hon. Ezra Stearns, Secretary of State; Hon. Solon A. Carter, State Treasurer; Orrin W. Tebbetts, Esq.,—and the following named members of the Board of Managers of the New Hampshire Soldiers' Home: Colonel Daniel Hall, Colonel Thomas P. Cheney, Everett B. Huse, Rev. James K. Ewer. Representatives of some of the leading newspapers, also, accompanied the party.

Brigadier-General Joab N. Patterson, commanding First Brigade, New Hampshire National Guard, and Staff, were invited to accompany the Governor's party, and the names of those present appear in the roster of the military from the State. Governor Tuttle, nearly all the members of his Staff, and the gentlemen of the Governor's Council, were accompanied by ladies.

Some thirty members of the New Hampshire Society, of the Sons of the American Revolution, were present, having chartered a special car, which was attached to the Governor's train.

The entire delegation, from New Hampshire, numbered about four hundred. This was one of the first to arrive in Bennington. The story of the trip is told, by a newspaper correspondent, in these words:

"The New Hampshire delegation left Concord at 9.30 o'clock, A. M., the 18th, in a special train consisting of 15 cars, including the drawing room and Wagner coaches. The Staff of the First Brigade and the Third Regiment Band escorted Captain Trenoweth's Company of the State National Guard, from their headquarters to the railway station. Much interest was manifested in the Capital City, in relation to the excursion to Bennington, and a large number of people gathered at the station to witness their departure. A quick run was made to Manchester, where the military from that city, selected to go to Bennington, were in readiness to go on board. The grave of General Stark, in the Northerly part of Manchester, was plainly visible from the train and attracted the attention of those on board. The plain monument could be seen, and above it waved, from a staff, the American colors. The Lafayette Guards, of Manchester, were escorted to the station by the Amoskeag Veterans, who were accompanied by Rublee's Band, of Lake Village. The march of these companies to the station elicited much enthusiasm, the sidewalks being filled with spectators, and a large crowd assembled about the depot. The justly celebrated Amoskeag Veterans turned out with full ranks, and never before made so fine an appearance. They received an almost continuous ovation on their way from their headquarters to the station. Their Commander, Major Charles H. Bartlett, who also has the rank of Brigadier-General on the Staff of Governor Tuttle, before stepping into the train received many personal compliments for the fine showing and excellent marching of his command. One of the cars taken by the Veterans, bore on a large canvas streamer this inscription, in large black letters: 'Amoskeag Veterans on their way to Bennington.'

"At Manchester, Governor Tuttle and wife, and a large number of distinguished military and civilians joined the party.

"The train then proceeded to Nashua, where it was divided into two sections, one following the other within ten minutes. The route was by the Acton Line, the Fitchburg and Hoosac Tunnel. The first section carried the Amoskeag Veterans, and the New Hampshire Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The train made but few stops, but at nearly all of them there were crowds assembled, and in several instances there were calls for Governor Tuttle, who, however, did not speak, but bowed his acknowledgments. Dinner was served on the train. The larger portion of the trip was made interesting by the approach toward the historic ground of Bennington. After leaving White Creek all were anxious to obtain, as soon as possible, a glimpse of the Monument. The two sections of the train arrived about 7 o'clock, in the evening. When the second section stopped in front of Camp Vermont, the Amoskeag Veterans were drawn up in line with arms presented, and, as Governor Tuttle stepped from his car, Rublee's Band played: 'Hail to the Chief.' Governor Tuttle was escorted to his headquarters, where he held an informal reception during the evening."

MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL. — The Boston special, over the Fitchburg Line, arrived in Bennington about one hour late. The party consisted of His Excellency, Wm. E. Russell, Governor of the Commonwealth, and the officials named on page 65. They left



GENERAL STARK.

The Statue erected at Concord, by the State of New Hampshire, in honor of the hero of Bennington Battle.

Boston, in a vestibuled train of palace coaches, with commissary car attached, at 5.30 P. M., August 18th. Crowds gathered at several stations, along the route, to see Governor Russell and the other representatives of Massachusetts. At Fitchburg, Athol, and North Adams, the Governor, in response to the cheers of the assembled crowds, appeared on the platform of his car, and shook hands with the people. He made brief addresses at those places. The train rolled into Bennington shortly after midnight, and was run on to a siding near the Soldiers' Home grounds, and adjacent to the tracks occupied by the cars containing the New Hampshire military and civic contingent, and "The K. T. Train." When these palace car trains were all in position, that part of the town was a "small city" of coaches; and formed no inconsiderable portion of the "*four solid miles* of passenger coaches," massed in and about Bennington station.

EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES. — Under the title of "The Camp-Fire Blazed," a correspondent, who accompanied the Massachusetts party, gave the following account at the time:

The banquet, in the two tents near the Soldiers' Home, was the only occasion during the Celebration when Governor Russell spoke in his official capacity as a representative of Massachusetts, and the verdict of his auditors was that he was a fitting representative for the Commonwealth. He spoke in his happiest vein and was enthusiastically received.

When the carriages returned from the exercises at the Monument, they were driven to the Soldiers' Home, which was used as headquarters, and an opportunity was then given for an exchange of courtesies between the Massachusetts and New Hampshire delegations, and President Harrison and Governor Page. This was of an informal nature and lasted but a few minutes.

The rest of the day and evening, after the banquet, the members of the delegation, in small parties, passed in sight-seeing and calling on the acquaintances that were found everywhere.

The Vermont Veterans of Boston, came in for a good share of attention, and the Amoskeag Veterans were hospitality itself.

The Executive Council, that supposedly sedate and dignified body, indulged in a good deal of good-natured chaff. Councillor Flynn, the lone Roman of that body of the Governor's advisers, was made the target while the parade was passing on Main street.

A broad lawn, near where the carriages were stationed in waiting, seemed to offer a chance for sight-seeing, and Governor Russell received from the owner an invitation to occupy it furnishing chairs for most of the party. The Council was seated in a row, with Mr. Flynn, by accident, on the extreme left, when a voice came from the other end of the line:

"That's very appropriate, Flynn, you generally are left."

His answer turned the laugh, as he said:

"Perhaps so; I am generally right and generally left, both."

Governor Russell after supper paid a few calls, Governor Page being the first one visited. Then he called upon a number of the Vermont National Guard officers.

A little later in the evening, an interesting group was formed in front of the tent of the commanding officer of the battery of the 4th United States Artillery. Major Cushing, its commander, had a bright camp-fire blazing, and here six or eight were gathered with his lieutenant, Mr. Anderson, Adjutant-General Dalton and others of the Massachusetts Staff officers.

The moon had just risen at their backs, and the evening was as perfect as could be desired, just cool enough to make the warmth from the fire welcome.

As soon as Governor Russell arrived, the circle was widened, and some more logs thrown on the fire. For half an hour stories were in order, and then the Governor was called away.

Just then General Corcoran appeared, and a new round of story-telling was begun.

The Amoskeag Veterans were bent upon giving Governor Russell a send off, and for an hour tried to get their band together. But it was nearly midnight before they were ready, and then, when it was proposed to give a serenade, in front of the Massachusetts train, it was decided that, as half of its occupants had already retired, it had best be given up.

The Massachusetts train started for home at 3.15 o'clock, A. M., of the 20th.

PRESENTATION IN CAMP VERMONT. — Monday evening was marked by a presentation by Company F, of Northfield, winners in the morning rifle contest, on the 17th, of a gold star badge, G. A. R., to Generals Greenleaf and Peck. They were escorted to the mess, and after grace by the Chaplain and the banquet disposed of, these tokens of respect were presented by Chaplain Hill in a congratulatory speech. He characterized these gentlemen as grandfathers of the National Guard, because of their long and faithful service in the militia of this State. The speaker referred to General Peck's well known popularity and efficient services as a State Officer. He wittily spoke of General Greenleaf as having been Colonel of a regiment that was now "whole cob," and that it was a great convenience to be in camp with so many ex-Governors as were present on this occasion. He spoke particularly of General Greenleaf as Commander of the National Guard of Vermont; and, voicing the sentiment of the whole regiment, he emphasized the feeling of regard held for both officers, in the presentation of these badges. Suitable replies were made by the two gentlemen, in their well known and happy manner. The Estey Guard, also, gave an exhibition of fire-works, which was viewed by a large number of people.

HOSPITALITY EXTENDED. — Lunch was served free in Masonic Hall, after the Grand Procession arrived at the Monument, to the



H. V. Crookman 2nd

entire command of Knights Templars, and other Freemasons. Nearly 1,000 partook of the hospitality thus courteously extended, and did full justice to the bounteous fare, prepared by the Bennington Fraternity, under the direction of a local Committee of whom Past E. C. G. B. Sibley was Chairman. A Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Vermont was opened and closed, R. E. Grand Commander Kittredge Haskins, presiding. While this was in progress the Amoskeag Veterans dispensed an abundant lunch to a crowd of hungry newspaper men. This courtesy was highly appreciated by this hard-worked force. In the evening Governor Russell gave them a generous collation, which was, also, highly enjoyed.

The total expense of the Celebration, to the State, was about \$15,000, in round numbers.

CHAPTER V.

OUR GUESTS AT THE CENTENNIAL.

ROLL OF GUESTS. — The list, following, of the guests of Vermont present at the Centennial, does not claim to be inclusive of all who came, but the names are such as the Committee on Entertainment, Henry T. Cushman, Chairman, 2nd, gave out for publication at the time, and have since been revised by them for this volume:

President Harrison; Secretary Proctor; General A. S. Webb, New York; Commander E. T. Woodward, Saratoga, N. Y.; General R. A. Alger, Michigan; General H. A. Barnum, New York; General J. B. Carr, Troy, N. Y.; Major-General O. O. Howard, U. S. A.; Senator Morrill; Attorney-General Miller; General C. W. Stevens, and F. A. Stillings, New Hampshire; ex-Minister Phelps, Orator of the Day; Colonel Veazey, President of the Day; Governor Wm. E. Russell, Massachusetts; Hons. J. M. Whipple, and J. D. Walker, New Hampshire; Governor H. A. Tuttle, New Hampshire; General J. C. Underwood, Commander Patriarchs Militant, I. O. O. F.; Hon. Rodney Wallace, Fitchburg, Mass.; Colonel Wm. Seward Webb, New York; Colonel D. J. Safford, Augusta, Me.; Collector Beaird, Boston, Mass.; Hon. Geo. A. Ramsdell, New Hampshire; Prof. A. J. Huntington, Saratoga, N. Y.; Hon. B. H. Hall, Troy, N. Y.; E. W. Jester, Delaware; Colonel L. L. Langdon, U. S. A.; Private Secretary Halford; ex-Collector Erhardt, New York; J. H. Flagg, Washington, D. C.; Colonel Albert Clarke, Secretary Home Market Club; Hon. L. E. Chittenden, New York; John Stark Colby, Lowell, Mass.; Major H. C. Cushing, Newport, R. I.; Hon. M. W. Cooper, New York; Hon. J. B. Crawford, Boston, Mass.; President Carter, Williams College; Colonel R. L. Elwell, New Hampshire; Hon. F. H. Fleming, North Adams, Mass.; H. C. Fiske, United States Consul to St. Johns, Province of Quebec; Hon. James Farrington, and Senator Gallinger, New Hampshire; Geo. C. Gilmore,

New Hampshire; Hon. E. S. Isham, Chicago; Lieutenant Johnson, West Point, N. Y.; General John King, President Erie Railroad; ex-Governor Stewart, Middlebury, Vt.; ex-Governor Rice, Boston, Mass.; Rev. W. H. Parmly, D.D., Saratoga, N. Y.; Dr. Charles Parkhurst, Chaplain of the Day, Boston, Mass.; J. Philipp Rinn, Architect of the Monument, Boston, Mass.; Hon. C. S. Randall, Massachusetts; Colonel B. B. Smalley, Hon. A. F. Walker, Vermont; Hon. J. M. Warner, Albany, N. Y.; ex-Lieutenant-Governor Woodbury, Vermont; General William Wells, Burlington, Vt.; General W. Y. W. Ripley, Rutland, Vt.; Hon. N. T. Sprague, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Judges Henry R. Start, and Loveland Munson, Vermont; Hon. A. W. Metcalf, Keene, N. H.; Congressman Powers, Morrisville, Vt.; ex-Governor Pingree, Hartford, Vt.; State Auditor Powell, Richford, Vt.; ex-Governor Ormsbee, Brandon, Vt.; Colonel Alfred A. Hall, P. G. M. of Masons, who laid the Corner-stone of the Monument; Colonel Kittredge Haskins, Grand Commander, K. T., of Vermont; General W. W. Henry, and Collector Benedict, Vermont; Hiram Atkins, Montpelier, Vt.; F. E. Alfred, Judge Advocate-General, Vermont; ex-Governor Barstow, Colonel D. K. Andross, Vermont; Hon. Wm. H. H. Bingham, Stowe, Vt.; Hon. Henry Ballard, Burlington, Vt.; Dr. C. F. Branch, Newport, Vt.; H. M. Arms, Springfield, Vt.; Colonel P. W. Clement, Rutland, Vt.; Colonel A. E. Clarke, New Hampshire; ex-Governor Dillingham, Vermont; General A. N. Dow, New Hampshire; ex-Governor Farnham, Vermont; Colonel Franklin Fairbanks, Vermont; Hon. N. W. Fiske, Isle la Motte, Vt.; Colonel T. C. Fletcher, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Congressman Grout, Vermont; Hon. Josiah Grout, Newport, Vt.; Hon. P. K. Gleed, Morrisville, Vt.; Hon. B. D. Harris, Brattleboro, Vt.; Hon. F. G. Field, North Springfield, Vt.; Colonel Geo. W. Hooker, Brattleboro, Vt.; Hon. E. C. Lewis, New Hampshire; Colonel Mansur, Island Pond, Vt.; State Librarian Huse, Montpelier, Vt.; Captain H. G. Hibbard, Orwell, Vt.; Department Commander Morgan, G. A. R., Rutland, Vt.; Hon. L. F. McKinney, Colonel F. W. Maynard, Hon. O. C. Moore, New Hampshire; United States District Attorney Plumley, Vermont; Colonel J. E. Pecker, ex-Governor Prescott, President of the Battle Monument Association, and Hon. H. A. Quimby, New Hampshire; Hons. C. A. Pouty, Newport, Daniel Roberts, and Robert Roberts, Burlington, Vt.; Colonel W. R. Rowell, Massachusetts; Hon. S. C. Shurtleff, and Editor Ropes, Montpelier, Vt.; Editor Whitney, Burlington, Vt.; Colonel T. O. Seaver, Woodstock, and Hon. W. W. Stickney, Ludlow, Vt.; Colonel G. A. Saunders, New Hampshire; Secretary Watson, of the Vermont Railroad Commission; Hon. C. M. Wilds, Middlebury, Vt.; Hon. O. W. Tebbets, New Hampshire; P. J. Trumpler, Providence, R. I.; Hon. James T. Robinson, North Adams, Mass., and others whose names the Committee did not learn.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF REGRET, AND ACCEPTANCE. — From a large number of prominent gentlemen, who could not come to Bennington; and, also, from others who were in attendance, Governor Page received congratulatory letters. With the former

regrets were expressed, while in the latter cordial acceptances were given. In completion of our record we give extracts from several letters as follows :

From Vice-President Morton.—I regret to find that I shall be unable to avail myself of the invitation, with which I have been honored, to be present on so interesting an occasion as that of the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, on the 19th, instant; and of the Centennial Celebration of the Admission of my native State into the Union.

From President Bartlett of Dartmouth College.—I regret to say that other engagements will render me unable to be present on that occasion, so related to the history of Vermont and of the country.

From Governor Burke of North Dakota.—It would have afforded me a great deal of pleasure to be permitted to witness the ceremonies of the Centennial Celebration of your State, but the fact that the annual session of the Equalization Board of this State (of which I am president), begins on the 18th of August, and makes it impossible for me to leave the State at that time.

From Governor Bulkley of Connecticut.—I cannot definitely promise, at this time, to be present with you at the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument. * * * I will, however, communicate with you later.

From Hon. Reuben C. Benton of Minneapolis.—It would have given me great pleasure to attend a Centennial of Vermont. My long absence from the State has increased my regard for it, and has given me a larger appreciation of the reputation and character of her people. It would have given me special pleasure to attend a celebration at Bennington; for recent investigations have led me to accord to that town a rank among the foremost, if not the very first, to engage in the struggle for Independence. I regard the contest between the settlers of Vermont, and the ring that surrounded the Royal Governor of New York, as the commencement of the Revolution. There never was any contest between the settlers and the people of New York. When the men of Bennington, under the lead of the minister of the parish, drove away the commissioners sent to make partition of the farm of their neighbor, they commenced a struggle the result of which was the establishment of a great Republic. I have come to regard the almost forgotten occurrences of that Autumnal day as not only the genesis of a State, but the initial contest of the American Revolution. I have great regard for the sturdy clergyman whose name stands next to the owner of the farm, in the indictment, for what was termed the riot of that day. Could I have been present at your celebration, I would have been glad to have paid tribute to the memory of the Reverend Jedediah Dewey.

From Governor Boies of Iowa.—I assure you it would give me very great pleasure to accept your cordial request, if circumstances would permit. I am, however, compelled to forego this pleasure.

From Governor Burleigh of Maine.—It would give me great pleasure to be in attendance upon an occasion so fraught with historic interest, but the Maine State muster, which occurs at the same time, will prevent me from doing so.

From Governor Fleming of Florida.—I fully appreciate the propriety and benefit of thus perpetuating the memory of the gallant deeds of the heroes of the Revolution, and impressing upon posterity the noble example of heroism furnished by their ancestors, to be cherished as a sacred heritage. I wish, indeed, it were possible for me to be present at the ceremonies, which I would enjoy exceedingly, besides the pleasure of meeting you and other distinguished persons who will be there; but I regret to say that my public duties will deprive me of that pleasure.

From Governor Fifer of Illinois.—I have promised to visit Gettysburg on the 1st of September, next, and take part in the dedication of the Illinois monuments on that battlefield. This engagement will prevent an acceptance of your invitation, as my time will not permit of two trips to the East so near together.

From Chief Justice Fuller of the United States Supreme Court.—I beg to acknowledge the invitation to attend the Dedication of the Bennington Monument, and the Centennial Celebration of the Admission of Vermont, at Bennington, on the 19th, which I have just found on my return from the West, and to express my sincere regret at my inability to be present on that interesting occasion.

From Governor Eagle of Arkansas.—I assure you that the invitation is fully appreciated, and I wish it were possible for me to accept; but have just returned from a week's visit in Kentucky, and official duties will prevent my being from home again at as early a date as August 19th.

From General Charles W. Darling.—The Oneida, [N. Y.], Historical Society sends patriotic greetings to the descendants of the "Green Mountain Boys," and wish their celebration, to-morrow, all the enthusiasm and majestic proportions possible. The celebration is a double one, for the stirring events of August 16, 1777, occurred just the day before General Herkimer died at his home in Danube, from the wound he received at the battle of Oriskany. Bennington and Oriskany changed the entire front of a situation that was growing very dark for the American cause. Burgoyne never reached Howe, and in a few weeks more he was forced to surrender. The capture of Ticonderoga by General Burgoyne, did not enable him to cut off New England from the rest of the Colonies by uniting with Lord Howe on the Lower Hudson. When he sent Colonel Baum with 1,000 Hessians, to capture a military store-house on the very site of the Monument, which is now unveiled and dedicated, they were met by Stark before they reached the Vermont line. As they drew up in line of battle, this Yankee General mounted a rail fence, and shouted: "We must whip the enemy before sun-down, or Molly Stark sleeps a widow." These historic words are very appropriate to inscribe upon one of the tablets in the Monument. Then followed one of the most brilliant actions of the Revolutionary War; the Vermonters were victorious, 300 of the Hessians, including their Colonel, were laid low, and nearly 700 of them were taken prisoners. Their own loss was only 14 killed and 42 wounded. While the victorious troops were securing the prisoners and gathering the spoils, Colonel Breyman appeared with reinforcements from Burgoyne's camp. A fresh regiment under

Colonel Seth Warner met him, and before the surprised British could be properly formed to resist, they were driven back and slaughtered along the road for a long distance. Oriskany and the Mohawk Valley, therefore, in the name of The Oneida Historical Society, send greetings to the people of Vermont in this their great celebration.

From Hon. Dudley C. Denison.—While the Nation exists (which God grant may be forever), the events you celebrate shall live in the memory of every patriotic citizen.

From Secretary Blaine.—Secretary Blaine instructs me to acknowledge, with his thanks, the receipt of your kind invitation.

* * * And to convey to you his expression of sincere regret that he cannot be with you on that interesting occasion. (Signed.) Louis A. Dent, Private Secretary.

From Major Charles Colville, Secretary to the Governor-General of Canada.—I am desired by His Excellency, the Governor-General, to acknowledge with thanks the kind invitation of the Bennington Battle Monument Committee to be present at the Dedication of the Monument, and to express His Excellency's regret that engagements in the Dominion will prevent him availing himself of it.

From ex-President Cleveland.—I very much regret that my plans and engagements will not permit me to be with you on this most interesting occasion.

From ex-Governor Beaver of Pennsylvania.—Time, place and circumstances combine to make the occasion one of great interest, and if I was able to do so, I would gladly attend.

From Doctor P. O'M. Edson of Roxbury, Mass.—It will be an occasion to stir the pulse of every Vermonter, for every one born upon the soil of Vermont is proud of its history.

From Secretary Noble.—It would gratify me very much to be present, but I cannot promise myself that pleasure. Please accept yourself, and extend to the committee, my sincere thanks for the very complimentary invitation, and my wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable occasion.

From General R. D. Mussey.—It would have given me the greatest pleasure to have testified, by my presence, my appreciation of the high military genius shown on your soil by the son of the State in which I had the honor to be born. With some little acquaintance with military history, I can at this moment recall nothing that in its results surpasses the record of the Battle of Bennington. A loss of 800 inflicted upon the enemy and the capture of 1,000 stand of arms by a force which lost in killed and wounded only 56, is something almost if not quite unprecedented. This was not a mere *fortune* of war; it was generalship of the highest character, and the effect of that battle, at that time upon the struggling Colonies, was as potent and beneficent as the sacrifice of life that produced it was startling in its paucity. I know well, however, that the significance of this battle, and the valor of the men, and the greatness of the general that won it, will be portrayed infinitely better than any poor words of mine could do. It was a happy thought to combine the erection of this Monument with the Celebration of the Centenary of the Statehood of the first-born State

that added a star to a flag, emblazoned with the stellar representatives of the Thirteen Original Colonies and States. The legend of your State, "Freedom and Unity," is one of those phrases which is, as somebody has said of certain words, not "half a battle" but a whole campaign. It is a declaration that freedom alone can be secured by unity, and that unity can only be conserved by freedom. When one calls the roll of the statesmen Vermont has produced, and their loyalty to this idea of Freedom and Unity, it is not difficult to see why it is that Vermont, though a small State, compared with the vast expanse of area, and the vast numbers of population that go to make up other States in the Union, has always maintained a foremost place in the councils and policy of the Nation. It were invidious to speak of your living Senators, for instance, whose reputation is as broad as the Union, they are but worthy successors of worthy predecessors; whether in the halls of Congress, the Executive Departments, or in the various activities of National life, Vermont has always held a foremost rank. I remember years ago, to have read that in your State there was not an incorporated city, nor a military company, nor a man worth a million dollars. Time may have changed that, to some extent, at least, but no change of time has sapped the vigor or diverted the current of the patriotic independence, and nobility of thought and purpose, and activity of life, that are as conspicuous as the mountain chain from which your State derives its name. Your zealous adherence to the fundamental law of State, your provision,—I believe it still exists,—for Censors, who shall from time to time, see that the Constitution has been free from infraction, and your other provisions for the maintenance of just and equal and well considered law, well deserves the encomium which some student of our American system has passed upon Vermont, to wit: that there are to be found in Vermont more democratic features than in any other State. You have realized that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty in peace as well as in war. It was to have been expected of a State that has your watch-word, of "Freedom and Unity," that when disunion and slavery combined, armed men should spring from every mountain and valley in your State, to defend the principle which your legend embodies. When I think what Vermont did in the field during the last war and in Congress, I am full of admiration for its record. It was the steadfast "Vermont Brigade" (whose achievements have been so charmingly told by Colonel Walker), upon which Sheridan riding from Winchester, after the rout, aligned his army, and moved forward to snatch overwhelming victory from terrible disaster, and send the Rebels "whirling up the valley." It were difficult to discriminate between the achievements of the 60,000 and more men, who fought at Gettysburg and won that great battle for the Union, but the student of military history can never forget how Stannard's Nine Months' Brigade, at a critical point of that engagement, stood fire like veterans, and broke the heroic charge of Pickett, with a heroism and a discretion rare even in a war that abounded in acts of heroism and deeds of valor, and captured by successive wheels, to the right and left, the advancing foe. If Vermont had done nothing else than to furnish, in the last

war, these two instances of what a free man fighting for the Union can do, its contribution would have been of the highest. As a participant in that great struggle, and as a student of its military lessons, I cannot but pay my respect, and my sincere tribute to these great achievements. Born on the banks of the Connecticut, with the White Hills on the one side of me, and the Green Mountains on the other, I feel that, though in one sense a river divides New Hampshire from Vermont, it should rather be said that the river unites the two States than separates them. It is the lesson of the day that each shall feel for all, and all shall feel for each and that unity and freedom shall be, while human institutions exist, the complements of one another.

From Senator Manderson. — I regret exceedingly, that I cannot be present on this most interesting occasion. It is an historic event, not only of importance to the noble State, whose sons have always been in the front rank of patriotism, but to the whole Republic. "Freedom and Unity" receive new baptism by appropriate celebration of events so momentous.

From Governor Hill of New York. — I should be pleased to accept the invitation, both on account of the historic interest of the occasion, and on account of the pleasure which it would give me to meet President Harrison and the members of his Cabinet at the exercises, but I have already made engagements for that day which will preclude the possibility of my being present.

From ex-President Hayes. — I beg you to receive my thanks for the invitation to attend the Dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument. Both of my parents were natives of Vermont. I visited the State often in my childhood, and have inherited a love for its mountains, its history and its people. It grieves me to find that I cannot be present at the ceremonies attendant upon the completion of a monument erected on Vermont soil in memory of one of the most inspiring events in our country's history.

From Governor Buckner of Kentucky. — Allow me to assure you that while official duties will preclude the possibility of my attendance, I look with pleasure upon every effort made to commemorate the heroic deeds of our fathers, and to keep alive in our posterity the patriotic fire.

From Postmaster-General Wanamaker. — I regret to say that Mrs. Wanamaker, whom you kindly include, is in Europe and would not be able to come, and that I fear my engagements for August will not permit me the pleasure which your invitation holds out. If at a later moment I can find any way to accept I will be prompt to apprise you.

From ex-Postmaster-General Vilas. — As the State of my birth and childhood's years, where still reside so many to whom I am attached by ties of kindred and of friendship, every event which gives her illustration is peculiarly interesting to me, and the particular anniversary which recalls her entrance to the Union, as the first of new States, though in good truth but the acknowledgment of her rightful place as one among those who gained their independence by the Revolution, is especially calculated to touch the sensibilities of every Vermonter.

From General Wm. F. ("Baldy") Smith of Delaware.—It would give me the greatest pleasure to assist in the ceremonies, for my lineal ancestors, the Robinsons and Saffords, were in the battle, and aided in securing the admission of Vermont into the Union as a separate State. I hope it will not be forgotten, by those present, that to Alexander Hamilton is due a debt of gratitude for his services in her cause. I regret that my engagements will render it impossible for me to accept the kind invitation, for I am always a Vermonter as are my children.

From Secretary Rusk.—I had confidently expected to be present at these interesting exercises, and had partially promised Secretary Proctor to visit your State at that time, but am obliged to deny myself this pleasure on account of official duties and other matters. I assure you that I greatly regret this, and ask that you will accept the thanks of both Mrs. Rusk and myself for your kind invitation.

From Governor Nichols of Louisiana.—Nothing would give me more pleasure than to be with you on that occasion, but the Lieutenant-Governor is sick at Saratoga, and the law has provided no other person to replace the Executive when temporarily absent. I have very pleasant recollections of Vermont, having spent some time there in 1856, with Colonel Colburn, of McClellan's Staff, who was a most intimate friend and classmate of mine at West Point.

Many other letters were received from invited guests, and among them, we mention those from the following gentlemen: Rev. Charles Parkhurst, D.D., of Boston; Justices Blatchford, Bradley, and Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court; General Russell A. Alger, of Michigan; Hon. A. Alford, of Brooklyn; Colonel Truman C. Fletcher, of St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Governor David R. Francis, of Missouri; Hon. Whitman G. Ferrin, of Montpelier, Vt.; Hon. J. K. Darling, of Chelsea, Vt.; Senator W. E. Chandler, of New Hampshire; Hon. T. F. Maynard, of Wilmington, Delaware; Governor A. C. Mellette, of South Dakota; General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A.; Justice J. Q. C. Lamar, of the United States Supreme Court; Governor Ladd, of Rhode Island; Hon. J. R. Lewis, of Atlanta, Ga.; Congressman Lodge, of Massachusetts; Hon. James R. Langdon (writing from Block Island); Superintendent Hammond of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company; Hon. Sherman Hoar, of Waltham, Mass.; Hon. Wm. C. Holbrook, of New York City; Hon. H. N. Hibbard, of Chicago; Governor Holt, of North Carolina; Governor Tillman, of South Carolina; Colonel P. D. Blodgett, of St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Hon. Hoyt H. Wheeler, Judge, United States Circuit Court; Governor Winans, of Michigan; Hon. James H. Williams, of Bellows Falls, Vt.; Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania; Treasurer Wm. P. Shreve, of Massachusetts, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, U. S. A.; President Low, of Columbia College; Senator Sawyer, of Wisconsin; Hon. M. T. Stevens, of North Andover, Mass.; Hon. John H. Starin, of New York City; Hon. F. Stewart Stranahan, of St. Albans, Vt.; Governor Routt, of Colorado; ex-Governor Rice, of Massachusetts; Hon. Jonathan Ross, Judge, Vermont Supreme Court; ex-Senator Edmunds, of Vermont; Governor Merriman, of Minnesota; Secretary of the Navy Tracy; Governor L. Bradford Prince, of New Mexico; Governor Nichols, of Louisiana, and others.



CAMP VERMONT — BATTLE MONUMENT IN THE DISTANCE.

Situated on the Soldiers' Home Grounds, Bennington, Vermont. Photographed, by Watson, from Bennington and Glastenbury Railroad. Vermont Soldiers' Home in upper corner.

APPENDIX.

The City of Tents ; " Camp Vermont " ; The National Guard at Bennington During the Week of the Dedication of the Monument. Rosters of Visiting Military, and Vermont's N. G. V. ; Delegations not Heretofore Mentioned, and Closing Particulars.

THE CITY OF TENTS.

The illustration : " Camp Vermont, with Battle Monument in the Distance," does not give a clear idea of the immensity, so to speak, of the Encampment on the Soldiers' Home grounds, in August, 1891. If the reader will allow imagination full play, and observe that one hundred acres of meadow-land were laid under tribute as a site for the camp, the banquet-tents and fireworks' plain, a fair realization of the large plan of the grounds may be inferred from a view, in the illustration, aforesaid, of the South-east corner of " The City of Tents." The tents there visible are those of the National Guard of Vermont. In this part of the " city," the various company streets, officers' headquarters, etc., the amount of canvas used was about 28,000 square yards. This was supplemented by the Government committees so that the total was over 51,500 square yards, — verily a " city of tents." In this connection we append an extract from a letter, written by General R. M. Yale, of the firm who furnished about 15,400 square yards of the canvas, who says :

I was somewhat interested, in looking over my old books, to see what I have done for the State of Vermont. In 1857, 1858, and 1859, I furnished tents for fairs in different places in your State, and have continued to do so up to September, 1891. In August 1860, they had a gathering of all the troops in the State, and I furnished tents for the officers and men at Montpelier. Later, in December of that year, I made them fifteen hundred dollars' worth of new tents. These were all the State had at the time the war broke out, and the first regiment that went to the front took them with them. In 1861, and 1862, I made some sixteen thousand dollars' worth of tents for the different regiments that left your State for the seat of war, and in 1877, I made 161 new tents with flies for the State. These were set for the first time at Bennington, on the occasion of your Centennial Celebration that year. I, also, furnished nine large and smaller sized tents for that celebration ; which, with several smaller celebrations in different parts of the State, brings me down to the last occasion, which was the crowning event of

them all. It is a pleasant reflection to me, to think that after serving the State so many years, that I was able to serve them again on that last great occasion, and I shall ever feel grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to do so.

The National Guard played so conspicuous a part in the exercises of the Centennial that a permanent record of their acts in the great event should go down in history. We therefore give, as an introduction to the Rosters, the Reports of Officers, as follows :

BRIGADE REPORT OF THE ENCAMPMENT. —

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE,
VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD,
BURLINGTON, VT., October 12, 1891.

Brigadier-General Theodore S. Peck, Adjutant-General.

SIR: — I have the honor to submit the following report of the Annual Encampment of this Brigade, held at Bennington, Vt., August 14, to 21, 1891, inclusive.

The Encampment was located on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home, and was named "Camp Vermont" in honor of the Centennial of the Admission of the State into the Union, which event was appropriately celebrated during the week.

In obedience to General Orders, No. 8, A. G. O., dated June 22, 1891, the several organizations of the First Regiment left their home stations at the hours named in Circular, No. 2, from the Quartermaster-General's office, Friday, August 14th, and arrived in camp by special trains as follows: Company K, at 8.00 A. M.; Company A, at 8.30 A. M.; Companies B, C, E, F, H, M, and band, at 2.00 P. M.; Companies D, L, and G, at 4.00 P. M.; Company I, which crossed the mountains from Brattleboro by team, at 5.20 P. M. Owing to the fatigue of the long ride, and the late hour at which some of the companies arrived in camp, no military duties, except guard-mount and dress parade, were performed on the first day, the few remaining hours of daylight being devoted to getting settled in quarters.

Fuller's Battery, accompanied by Battery B, 4th Artillery, U. S. A., Brevet-Major Henry C. Cushing, commanding, arrived in camp at 2.15 P. M., on Saturday the 15th, having marched over the mountains from Brattleboro. The regular battery being on its annual summer outing, had previously marched, from its station at Newport, R. I., to Brattleboro, where it arrived on the 13th. The two batteries left Brattleboro at 6.00 A. M., on the morning of the 14th, and reached the camp thoroughly drenched, from the pouring rain of the previous night, but with men and horses in good condition. The distance of forty-three miles was covered in seventeen and one-half hours, marching time. The march was conducted in a

strictly military manner; and, so far as I am aware, is the first instance in which regular and volunteer batteries have campaigned together since the close of the Rebellion.

The time of the Encampment was largely devoted to skirmish drill, with such battalion movements as were made necessary in the proper handling of the reserves. During the forenoons, the battalions were each commanded by their respective Majors, and in the afternoons were united under command of the Colonel. By this method instruction in a much larger number of movements was made possible. It was intended to give the command some practical instruction in out-post duty; but, owing to the amount of other work to be performed, the idea was abandoned as impracticable.

A critical inspection of the troops in quarters was made during the forenoon of Sunday, in which I was accompanied by Captain Ralph W. Hoyt, U. S. A., who had been detailed by the War Department to inspect and report upon the Encampment. The camp was found to be in excellent shape, and the sanitary condition the best of any encampment we have ever held.

During the forenoon of Monday, the 17th, teams of five men from each company of infantry were at the range, competing for the Centennial Trophy, which was won by Company F, of North-field, with the following score at 200 yards, standing position:

Private J. T. Celley,.....	4	4	4	4	4	20
Private W. P. Springer,.....	4	4	5	5	3	21
Private F. B. Downing,.....	3	3	4	3	4	17
Private G. N. Tilden,.....	4	4	4	3	3	18
Private S. E. Locklin,.....	5	4	4	5	4	22
Aggregate,.....						98

In the afternoon the range was occupied by individual competitors, for the Webb badges, consisting of a gold, diamond studded medal; a silver medal with gold target, and a silver medal, presented by Colonel Wm. Seward Webb, Inspector of Rifle Practice on the Staff of His Excellency, Governor Page, for the three best individual scores from five shots at 200 yards. The competition was limited to members of the command who had made a record of sixty out of a possible seventy-five, during the present practice season. Forty contestants presented themselves at the firing-point, and the first prize was won by Lieutenant W. B. Locklin, of Company M, with a score of 22; the second and third by Privates W. P. Springer, Company F, and R. H. Whitman, Company M, with scores of 21 and 20 respectively. The range during these competitions was in charge of Major Charles E. Nelson, Brigade Inspector of Rifle Practice, assisted by Captain John D. Wyman, Inspector of

Rifle Practice, First Regiment; with Captain R. W. Hoyt, 11th Infantry, and Captain H. R. Anderson, 4th Artillery, U. S. A., as judges.

After guard-mounting on Tuesday, the 18th, Major Cushing's battery gave an exhibition drill on the parade ground, which was very instructive, and was highly enjoyed by the officers and men of the brigade, as well as by the large number of citizens who had assembled to witness it. The ground was subsequently occupied by Fuller's Battery, which displayed a proficiency in drill that showed much careful and painstaking work on the part of officers and men during the past season. Each year, since being supplied with the new model breech-loading rifles, Colonel Fuller, at the request of the War Department, has submitted detailed reports of the working of the guns and equipments, noting defects observed, with such suggestions as his well-known mechanical skill have enabled him to make regarding improvements, many of which have received favorable consideration from the Ordnance officers of the army.

During the afternoon of the 18th, a select battalion of the New Hampshire National Guard, consisting of three companies, under the command of Major Francis O. Nims, arrived, and were assigned to quarters near Camp Vermont, as were also the 32nd Separate Company from Hoosick Falls, N. Y., Captain Charles W. Eddy, commanding, and the Light Guard Battalion of North Adams, Mass., Major F. H. Fleming, commanding.

On Wednesday, the 19th, the regiment, battery, and visiting troops took part in the parade in connection with the Dedication of the Monument, erected to commemorate General Stark's victory at Bennington, on August 16, 1777. Having been designated by His Excellency as Chief Marshal on this occasion, the brigade was temporarily under the command of Colonel Julius J. Estey, First Regiment, and did the State great credit by its excellent appearance. The column for parade included 88 different organizations, civil and military, 12 bands, 6 drum corps and 108 carriages with invited guests, aggregating nearly 4,500 men. It was pronounced by competent judges to have been the largest and finest ever witnessed in Vermont. The marching of the troops, as the column passed in review before President Harrison, elicited much well-merited applause. After the parade the troops had the rare pleasure of witnessing a dress parade of the West Point Cadets, which cannot fail to be of benefit to them in future encampments.

During Thursday forenoon the command was reviewed by His Excellency, Governor Page, and in the afternoon was exercised in skirmish drill with blank cartridges, the regiment being divided into

opposing bodies under command of Colonel Estey, and Lieutenant-Colonel Kinsman. All the movements were executed to the sound of the bugle, and a good degree of proficiency was exhibited.

As occasion offered each organization was carefully and minutely inspected by Captain Hoyt, U. S. A., assisted by Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Greene, Assistant Adjutant-General of the brigade. * * *

From a strictly military stand-point I believe the Encampment to have been a very successful one, though more and better work would have been possible, could the entire eight days have been devoted to purely military duties; but, despite the fact that for three days the camp was the rallying point of the thousands present to participate in the Dedication of the Battle Monument, and Celebration of the hundredth Anniversary of the Admission of the State into the Union, much valuable work was done, and the discipline of the command, with hardly an exception, was most excellent, and the conduct of the men in every way commendable.

Camp was broken on the morning of Friday, the 21st, the troops returning home by the same routes taken in reaching camp. The weather was most favorable, and by noon the camp-equipage had been packed and loaded.

I herewith transmit the reports of Colonels Estey and Fuller.

* * *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. L. GREENLEAF,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

REGIMENTAL REPORT OF THE ENCAMPMENT. —

HEADQUARTERS FIRST REGIMENT,

VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD,

BRATTLEBORO, VT., August 28, 1891.

General Wm. L. Greenleaf, Commanding First Brigade, V. N. G., Burlington, Vermont.

SIR: — I have the honor to report that in compliance with General Order, No. 8, A. G. O., dated June 22nd, and General Order, No. 6, Brigade Headquarters, dated July 15th, the Annual Encampment of this regiment was held on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home at Bennington, August 14th to 21st, inclusive. * * *

Guard-mount was held at 3.30 o'clock, with details from such companies as had arrived in camp. The companies arriving so late, there was no time for drill Friday afternoon. Dress parade was held at the usual hour.

There was quite a rain Saturday morning, but it cleared away, so that it did not interfere with our routine of duty for that day.

Sunday was quietly observed, with inspection of quarters in the morning; services conducted by the Chaplain in the afternoon, and dress parade in the evening.

Monday morning was devoted to competition for the Centennial Trophy, which was won by Company F, and in the afternoon the Webb medals were competed for.

Wednesday was devoted to the ceremony of the Dedication of the Battle Monument, in which the regiment participated.

On Thursday morning the regiment was reviewed by His Excellency, Governor Page, and the prizes awarded to the winning teams and individuals, and the Service Medals were given out.

The regiment was inspected, — each Company separately, — by Captain R. W. Hoyt, of the 11th United States Infantry.

I am happy to say that the conduct of the men during the entire Encampment, so far as I have heard, was highly commendable. I think there was a marked improvement in the duties of the sentinels on their posts, from the beginning to the end of the encampment. The regular routine was so interfered with that not as much battalion drill was had as would have been desirable, although some very good work was done. * * *

The Morning Reports show an average attendance for the entire Encampment of something over 97 per cent., which, I think, is very creditable.

The cleanliness of the camp showed an improvement over any preceding year. * * *

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JULIUS J. ESTEY, *Colonel, Commanding.*

ARTILLERY REPORT OF THE ENCAMPMENT. —

“FULLER’S BATTERY”: FIRST LIGHT BATTERY, V. N. G.,

BRATTLEBORO, VT., August 24, 1891.

General Wm. L. Greenleaf, Commanding Brigade, V. N. G.

SIR: — In accordance with orders of the War Department, Light Battery B, 4th Artillery, U. S. A., Major H. C. Cushing, commanding, left Fort Adams, Newport, R. I., August 3d, marching on an average about twenty miles a day, joining my command at Brattleboro on the 11th. On the 13th they gave an exhibition drill on the fair grounds, which was greatly appreciated by several thousand people, and, for purposes of instruction, my battery teams were out.

At 6 A. M., August 14th, both batteries left Brattleboro, and marched to Marlboro, where they lunched, and then proceeded to Wilmington, arriving at 2.15, P. M., where they were received by a delegation of citizens, headed by an excellent band, and escorted

through the village to the fair ground; encamping there for the night, and continuing their march, the following morning at 5 o'clock, through Searsburgh and Woodford. It rained very hard from one o'clock until ten, and, also, during the descent of the Western slope of the mountain; but horses and men suffered no injury, or unreasonable discomfort, reaching Bennington in good condition at 2.15 P. M., and going into camp on the East side of the Soldiers' Home.

On Sunday we performed routine duty, observing the day in accordance with New England custom.

On Monday we got in a very heavy day's work.

The same may be said of Tuesday, with the addition of a full dress inspection, by Captain Hoyt, U. S. A., and a heavy shower in the afternoon.

On Wednesday we participated in the parade, passing in review before the Governor of Vermont, and the President of the United States, being attached to the First Grand Division. After returning to camp, we performed a good afternoon's work.

On Thursday morning both batteries formed in line, and were reviewed by His Excellency, Governor Page, after which we drilled in his presence. In the afternoon the work performed was considerable, closing as it did with gun-practice.

On Friday morning we broke camp at five o'clock, and commenced our march across the mountains, arriving in Wilmington at 2.00 P. M.; camping for the night on the fair ground, and resuming the march at 5.00 o'clock, on Saturday morning. Two miles to the East of Wilmington, we parted from Cushing's battery, they taking the road through to Jacksonville and Greenfield, and we, continuing the march, arriving in Brattleboro at 11.45 A. M.

The distance covered from Bennington to Wilmington, is about 23 miles; Wilmington to Brattleboro, 20 miles.

The march was conducted on a strictly military basis, the two batteries marching and camping together, my battery conforming to the movements of the Regulars.

So far as I know, this is the first time in many years, possibly, since the War of the Rebellion, that Volunteers and Regulars have campaigned together, and I have no doubt of its vast importance. During the seventeen years of my command of this battery, it has been my constant aim to conform in everything to the ways and customs of the Regular service, believing that a good, working, serviceable battery is the most desirable, and this experience has strengthened that view.

My horses were superior for every duty required, and men were proficient in their duties. * * *

I desire to express my thanks to the Honorable Secretary of War, Redfield Proctor, for detailing Cushing's Battery to march and encamp with us, and to yourself, the Adjutant-General, and His Excellency, Governor Page, for so heartily entering into and promoting the same. Very properly, the Department left much to the wise discretion of the officers, who labored with great zeal to make the occasion one of profit, and the advantages derived are many.

I also desire to express my appreciation to Major Cushing, his officers and men, for their cheerful willingness to place themselves at our disposal, and in every way possible contribute to the success of the occasion.

Number of officers,.....	8
Number of Non-Commissioned,.....	9
Number of enlisted men,.....	63
Total,.....	80

Respectfully submitted,

LEVI K. FULLER, Brevet-Colonel,

Captain First Light Battery, V. N. G.

CENTENNIAL ROSTER, N. G. V. —

Roster of the State Officers, and Militia.—The following are the officers of the State Government, and Vermont National Guard, together with such of their associates for this particular occasion, as have been designated for publication. It is a matter of interest, in connection with the Roster, to note that of the names thereon but eight were present as officers in 1877. We give their rank at that time, viz.: Theodore S. Peck, Colonel of First Regiment; William L. Greenleaf, Lieutenant-Colonel; William Smith, Regimental Quartermaster; Julius J. Estey, Captain, Company I; Charles C. Kinsman, Captain, Company A; F. W. Childs, Second Lieutenant, Company I; Levi K. Fuller, Captain, Battery; P. F. Connors, Second Lieutenant, Battery. This fact emphasizes the constant change going on in the ranks. The *personnel* of the privates has been changed equally as much:

Commander-in-Chief.—His Excellency, Carroll S. Page, Hyde Park, Governor.

State Officers.—Hon. Henry A. Fletcher, Cavendish, Lieutenant-Governor; Hon. Chauncey W. Brownell, Jr., Burlington, Secretary of State; Hon. Henry F. Field, Rutland, Treasurer; Hon. Luther O. Greene, Woodstock, Inspector of Finance; Hon. E. Henry Powell, Burlington, Auditor of Accounts.

Commander's Staff.—Brigadier-General Theo. S. Peck, Burlington, Adjutant and Inspector-General; Brigadier-General Wm. H. Gilmore, Fairlee, Quartermaster-General; Brigadier-General J. C.

Rutherford, Burlington, Surgeon-General; Brigadier-General F. E. Alfred, Newport, Judge Advocate-General; Colonel Wm. Seward Webb, Shelburne, Inspector of Rifle Practice.

Aides-de-Camp.—Colonel Herbert F. Brigham, Bakersfield; Colonel Wm. H. H. Slack, Springfield; Colonel Myron J. Horton, Poultney; Colonel Lyman F. Abbott, Bennington; Colonel Harley E. Folsom, Lyndonville; Colonel Henry R. Cutler, Barton. Captain E. N. Wright, Montpelier, Military Storekeeper.

On Duty at Headquarters.—Captain Herbert S. Foster, 20th Infantry, U. S. A., Acting Assistant Adjutant-General; Lieutenant Fred A. Richardson, of Burlington; Sergeants Marion Allen, Richard A. Shepard, George E. Cowlbeck, and Charles H. Stevens.

Brigade Commander, and Staff.—Brigadier-General Wm. L. Greenleaf, Burlington.

Staff.—Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Greene, Burlington, Assistant Adjutant-General; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Smith, Burlington, Assistant Quartermaster-General; Major Robert J. Coffey, Bennington, Provost Marshal; Major C. E. Nelson, Derby Line, Inspector of Rifle Practice; Captain Max L. Powell, of Richford, A. D. C.; Captain Allen H. Sabin, of Saxton's River, A. D. C.; Sergeant Ransom S. Buss, Bennington, Provost-Sergeant; Sergeant H. B. Chamberlain, Bradford, Quartermaster-Sergeant.

First Regiment, Field and Staff.—Julius J. Estey, Brattleboro, Colonel; Charles C. Kinsman, Rutland, Lieutenant-Colonel; George H. Bond, Brattleboro, John H. Watson, Bradford, Calvin W. Evans, Bennington, Majors; James A. Lillis, Rutland, Adjutant; Charles H. Fuller, Montpelier, Quartermaster; John D. Wyman, St. Albans, Inspector of Rifle Practice; James N. Jenne, St. Albans, Surgeon; Wm. D. Huntington, Rochester, Henry H. Lee, Wells River, Assistant Surgeons; Rev. Howard F. Hill, Montpelier, Chaplain.

Non-Commissioned Staff.—D. S. Wells, Barre, Sergeant-Major; P. K. Peck, Rutland, Quartermaster-Sergeant; F. H. Chapman, Rutland, Hospital Steward; Fred T. Austin, Northfield, Drum-Major; Ruel L. Parker, Brandon, Chief Musician; Charles F. Collins, Montpelier, First Color-Sergeant; Thomas H. Robinson, St. Johnsbury, Second Color-Sergeant; Edward C. Bennett, Bennington, R. G. Guide, Loring D. Bingham, Bennington, L. G. Guide.

Officers of Companies.—Company D, of St. Johnsbury.—Captain, Abel W. Roberts; First Lieutenant, Charles W. Bonett; Second Lieutenant, Heman S. Steady.

Company H, of Montpelier.—Captain, Osman D. Clark; First Lieutenant, Samuel A. Luke; Second Lieutenant, Arthur G. Eaton.

Company F, of Northfield. — Captain, Gilbert C. Bates ; First Lieutenant, Frank L. Howe ; Second Lieutenant, George R. Cofrin.

Company I, of Brattleboro. — Captain, Fred W. Childs ; First Lieutenant, Thomas A. Austin ; Second Lieutenant, J. Gray Estey.

Company E, of Barre. — Captain, Burt H. Wells ; First Lieutenant, Frederick B. Mudgett ; Second Lieutenant, Daniel R. Bisbee.

Company B, of St. Albans. — Captain, John H. Mimms ; First Lieutenant, Carleton A. Searle ; Second Lieutenant, Charles D. Watson.

Company C, of Brandon. — Captain, Josiah W. Symons ; First Lieutenant, Bernice A. Carr ; Second Lieutenant, A. J. Dimmick.

Company G, of Bradford. — Captain, Calvin E. Clark ; First Lieutenant, Herbert P. Warren ; Second Lieutenant, Frank R. Johnson.

Company K, of Bennington. — Captain, Henry D. Fillmore ; First Lieutenant, Orrin W. Davis ; Second Lieutenant, Ernest T. Griswold.

Company A, of Rutland. — Captain, Theodore A. Davis ; First Lieutenant, Benjamin B. Perkins ; Second Lieutenant, Myron D. Hayward.

Company L, of Newport. — Captain, Gardner D. Pratt ; First Lieutenant, Jerry F. Lambert ; Second Lieutenant, E. C. Skinner.

Company M, of Richford. — Captain, Winfield S. Thayer ; First Lieutenant, W. B. Locklin ; Second Lieutenant, E. E. Miller.

First Light Battery : "Fuller's." — Captain and Brevet-Colonel, Levi K. Fuller ; First Lieutenant and Adjutant, Edwin H. Putnam ; Assistant Surgeon, D. P. Webster ; First Lieutenant and Quartermaster, Thomas Hannon ; First Lieutenant, F. D. Weld ; First Lieutenant, A. T. McClure ; Second Lieutenant, P. F. Connors ; Second Lieutenant, L. F. Shields.

Roster of Cushing's Battery. — Major, H. C. Cushing ; Captain, H. R. Anderson ; Lieutenant, John T. Martin. This battery has four cannon, 55 men, and 55 horses.

(NOT) BURGEOYNE'S CAMP-KETTLE. — A member of the Citizens Committee of Fifty, contributes the following account of a "practical joke," but he fails to state that the aforesaid "kettle" was returned to the genial Chairman of the Committee on Transportation as a "valuable package." It is, also, averred that the manager of the Water Company, Mr. E. H. Putnam, "captured" the "package" *en route* to its destination as marked. Between the parties in the "secret" there has been considerable good-natured fun, — but to the subject :

An amusing incident connected with the Celebration, the facts



H. L. Stillson.

of which are known to but few persons not immediately associated with the affair, and which we believe, now for the first time appear in print, was the "practical joke" played, by members of the National Guard, upon a company of Knights Templars, who were in attendance in their own special car. As it transpires, some of the officers of the "Guard," who were "well up" in military etiquette, had been guests of the aforesaid Commandery of Knights Templars, and not having received the homage they conceived was due to their rank, determined to seek redress,—after a friendly fashion, of course,—by playing a practical joke. In the vicinity of the "special car" was an immense kettle for melting lead, used by the Water Company in laying their "mains" through the streets, and weighing about a ton. During the Grand Parade, and while the car was wholly unoccupied, a detail of the "Guard" surreptitiously loaded this "kettle" into the car. After the parade every thing was in a tumult and hurry, and no notice was taken of the strange cargo until the train was well under way; when, upon nearing Rutland, the "thing" was discovered. No amount of enquiry could reveal any knowledge of it; and, after due deliberation, it was decided to take, what many thought to be "General Stark's Camp-Kettle," to Burlington, and have it returned to Bennington. Accordingly the freight agent at Burlington was very innocently informed, that "That *thing* wanted to be returned to Bennington." With the intuition due to his class, he took in the situation, and the kettle which had been sorely wanted, for its legitimate purpose, by its owners was restored to them, just in time to save the purchase of a new one, which was to have been ordered by telegraph the day of the return of the old kettle. To those familiar with the facts the whole affair was decidedly funny and laughable; and, no doubt, has been the topic of many a "good time" to the participants since it occurred, especially as the labor necessary to get the "kettle and furnace" into the car is recalled. The wonder has been: How it was ever gotten through the door, either in or out of the car!

CENTENNIAL ROSTER, N. G. N. H., AND AMOSKEAG VETERANS.—

Governor and Staff.—His Excellency, Hiram A. Tuttle, Governor and Commander-in-Chief; Major-General Augustus D. Ayling, Adjutant-General, Concord; Brigadier-General Albert N. Dow, Inspector-General, Exeter; Brigadier-General Charles W. Stevens, Quartermaster-General, Nashua; Brigadier-General Oliver A. Gibbs, Commissary-General, Dover; Brigadier-General Charles H. Bartlett, Judge Advocate-General, Manchester; Brigadier-General Ferdinand A. Stillings, Surgeon-General, Concord.

Aides-de-Camp.—Colonel Arthur E. Clarke, Manchester; Colonel George A. Sanders, Laconia; Colonel Frank W. Maynard, Nashua; Colonel Rufus N. Elwell, Newton; Colonel J. E. Pecker, Concord.

Governor's Council.—Hon. James Farrington, Rochester; Hon. Henry B. Quinby, Lake Village; Hon. Geo. A. Ramsdell, Nashua; Hon. John M. Whipple, Claremont; Hon. Edwin C. Lewis, Laconia.

Brigade Commander, and Staff.—Brigadier-General J. W. Patterson, Concord; Lieutenant-Colonel Frank W. Rollins, Concord, Assistant Adjutant-General; Major J. P. Wellman, Keene, Inspector of Rifle Practice; Lieutenant-Colonel Irving A. Watson, Concord, Medical Director; Major Arthur H. Chase, Concord, Judge-Advocate; Captain George R. Leavitt, Laconia, Quartermaster; Captain Frank L. Kimball, Nashua, A. D. C.; Brigade Quartermaster-Sergeant, F. W. Truland, Laconia; Brigade Bugler, W. C. Hammond, Concord.

Bennington Battalion, N. H. N. G.; Field and Staff.—Major, Francis O. Nims, Second Regiment, Keene; Adjutant, Frank B. Perkins, First Regiment, Manchester; Quartermaster, Arthur M. Dodge, Third Regiment, Hampton Falls; Assistant Surgeon, Robert Burns, Third Regiment, Plymouth; Sergeant-Major, Edward S. Cook, Third Regiment, Laconia; Quartermaster-Sergeant, George E. Danforth, Second Regiment, Nashua; Drum-Major Francis H. Pike, First Regiment, Manchester.

Officers of Companies.—Company H, First Regiment, of Manchester.—Captain, J. Soley; First Lieutenant, Treffle Raiche; Second Lieutenant, M. R. Maynard.

Company G, Second Regiment, of Keene.—Captain E. O. Upham; First Lieutenant, John J. Colony; Second Lieutenant, E. M. Keyes.

Company C, Third Regiment, of Concord.—Captain, W. C. Trenoweth; First Lieutenant, Thomas P. Davis; Second Lieutenant, Alfred L. Trenoweth.

Amoskeag Veterans; Commander, and Staff.—Major, commanding, Charles H. Bartlett, Manchester; First Lieutenant John Gannon, Jr., Adjutant, Manchester; Captain H. E. Burnham, Judge Advocate, Manchester; Captain William L. Morrison, Chaplain, Manchester; Captain Miah B. Sullivan, Surgeon, Dover; First Lieutenant Charles E. Dodge, Assistant-Surgeon, Manchester; Captain Charles L. Harmon, Paymaster, Manchester; Captain Moses Wadleigh, Quartermaster, Manchester.

Officers of Companies.—Company A.—Captain, Benjamin F. Clark, Manchester; First Lieutenant, Sebastian Christophe, Manchester; Second Lieutenant, Chauncey W. Clement, Manchester.

Company B.—Captain, George H. Wilson, Manchester; First Lieutenant, Frank P. Kimball, Manchester; Second Lieutenant, Charles H. Moore, Nashua.

CENTENNIAL ROSTER, MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION.—

Governor and Staff.—His Excellency, William E. Russell, Governor of the Commonwealth.

Staff. — Major-General Samuel Dalton, Adjutant-General; Brigadier-General Thomas Kittredge, Surgeon-General; Brigadier-General John W. Corcoran, Judge Advocate-General; Colonel Walter Cutting, A. D. C.; *Colonel Michael T. Donahoe, A. D. C.; Colonel Francis Peabody, Jr., A. D. C.; Colonel Spencer Borden, A. D. C.; Colonel George A. Keeler, Assistant Inspector-General; Colonel Henry D. Andrews, Assistant Inspector-General; Colonel Henry E. Russell, Assistant Adjutant-General; *Colonel Horace B. Verry, Assistant Quartermaster-General.

Honorary Staff. — Brigadier-General Benjamin F. Peach, Jr., commanding Second Brigade, M. V. M.; Brigadier-General Benjamin F. Bridges, commanding First Brigade, M. V. M.; Colonel William M. Strachan, commanding Ninth Infantry, M. V. M.; Colonel Walter A. Bancroft, commanding Fifth Infantry, M. V. M.; Colonel Thomas R. Mathews, commanding First Infantry, M. V. M.; Colonel Embury P. Clark, commanding Second Infantry, M. V. M.; Colonel Henry Parsons, commanding Sixth Infantry, M. V. M.; Colonel J. Albert Mills, commanding Eighth Infantry, M. V. M.; Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas F. Edmands, commanding First Corps Cadets, M. V. M.; Lieutenant-Colonel John W. Hart, commanding Second Corps Cadets, M. V. M.; Major George S. Merrill, First Battalion Light Artillery, M. V. M.; Major Horace G. Kemp, commanding First Battalion Cavalry, M. V. M.; Lieutenant-Commander John C. Soley, commanding Naval Battalion, M. V. M.

Executive Council. — Lieutenant-Governor William H. Haile; Hon. Isaac N. Keith, Hon. Arthur W. Tufts, Hon. Edward J. Flynn, Hon. Byron Truell, Hon. Moses How, Hon. Ephraim Stearns, Hon. William Abbott, Hon. Ashley B. Wright.

Legislative Officers. — *Hon. Henry H. Sprague, President of the Senate; Hon. William E. Barrett, Speaker of the House; Captain J. G. B. Adams, Sergeant-at-Arms; Henry D. Coolidge, Clerk of Senate; *Edward A. McLaughlin, Clerk of House.

Heads of State Departments. — *Hon. William M. Olin, Secretary of State; Hon. G. A. Marden, Treasurer and Receiver-General; Hon. William D. T. Trefry, Auditor; Hon. Albert E. Pillsbury, Attorney-General.

Committee on Federal Relations. — Hon. George M. Towle, Hon. James Donovan, Hon. George N. Carpenter; Representative Hiram B. Lane, Representative Charles H. Boodey, Representative Louis E. P. Moreau, Representative Haile R. Luther, Representative Myron J. Ferren, Representative Dudley J. Marston.

Special Committee, House and Senate. — Hon. Frederick S.

*Those marked with an asterisk were unable to be present.

Risteen, Hon. Cyrus Savage, Hon. Aaron Low, Hon. George P. Cooke, Hon. H. Torrey Cady; Representative J. Otis Wardwell, Representative James H. Mellen, Representative Charles H. Baker, *Representative Chas. F. Worcester, Representative Charles Moore, Representative James A. Lewis, Representative Joseph P. Lomasney, Representative Henry S. Dickinson, *Representative Robert B. Capen, Representative Richard F. Barrett, Representative S. Edward Howard, Representative James O. Parker, Representative Nathan B. Flood, Representative Daniel R. Child, Representative George H. Brown.

Representatives of Boston Daily Press.—B. L. Beal, *Boston Journal*; H. A. French, *Boston Traveller*; John B. Reynolds, *Boston Advertiser and Record*; F. C. Brownell, *Boston Herald*; J. C. Smith, *Boston Globe*; C. H. Glidden, *Boston Post*; J. E. Pember, *Boston News*; T. B. Benton, *Boston Transcript*.

In Charge of Quartermaster's Department.—Major W. C. Capelle.

Bearer of State Guidon.—Guidon-Sergeant E. E. Kemp, First Battalion Cavalry.

Messengers to Party.—R. S. Church, William Robinson.

Colonel William M. Strachan, Senior-Colonel of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, was appointed to the command of a Division by the Vermont Authorities. (See page 73.)

THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE.—Carriages had been provided so that the members of the Vermont Legislature could ride, but when the Grand Procession was made up, this fine appearing body of men took their places in line, and marched to and from the Monument. At the head walked Lieutenant-Governor Henry A. Fletcher, and at his side were Speaker Mann, Treasurer Field and Secretary of State Brownell. Their position was the left of the Second Division, and there were 115 Senators and Representatives present. At the banquet these gentlemen had special seats assigned, but no roster has been preserved, much to the regret of the Editor of this volume.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN BENNINGTON VILLAGE.—

At St. Peter's Church.—In St. Peter's Episcopal church, August 16th, there were Celebrations of the Eucharist at 8.00 o'clock, and 9.45 A. M. At 10.30 the edifice was filled to its utmost capacity with interested listeners. The Rev. William Bogert Walker preached a practical discourse upon the subject: "God's Providential Intentions; or the Dangers and Safeguards of our Country." His text was taken from Deut. xxx., 20. He spoke of the dangers to our country from immigration; the difficulties between capital and labor, appearing thus early in our Nation's his-

tory; from dishonesty, political intrigue and legislation for the few against the many; in the overwhelming quantity of vicious literature. The safeguards of our country are an open Bible and a Living Church. Add to patriotism, which is loyalty to country, loyalty to God and His laws, and God will bless this land and make it great.

The Choral Evensong was inavoidably curtailed on account of the illness of some prominent ones concerned therein.

First Baptist Church. — The Baptist church was very tastily decorated. Shields of the National colors, with trimmings of flags, covered the lower front of the organ, and the choir-rail was draped with bunting. Small flags stood upright at each seat in the main aisles. The Rev. Z. Marten preached from the text Joshua iv., 7: "These stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever." He spoke of the enduring character of the Monument and that it was a fit reminder of the sturdy piety and devotion to duty which characterized the fathers. That this patriotism may be impressed upon our hearts, in grateful remembrance, should be our constant effort. We need as a preservative against the evils in our Republic, unwavering faith in God, confidence in, and loyalty to, the principles which have made us what we are. And, above all, a National sense of honor that shall preserve us, both as individuals, and as a Nation, from dishonesty, subterfuge, injustice, and atheism.

Methodist Episcopal Church. — The decorations in the Methodist church were very elaborate, especially when the evergreen was added for the evening concert. Streamers of bunting hung from the centre of the ceiling to the four corners of the room. A life-sized portrait of General Washington was held in the place of centre-piece above the platform. The motto: "The day the battle was fought," was above the portrait, surrounded by flags. There was also a centre-piece of flags on the wall at the rear of the room, and sashes of bunting in all the windows. The Rev. A. D. Heast preached a sermon of much power and eloquence. His text was Joshua iv., 21-24, and the subject: "Lessons of the Day."

Second Congregational Church. — The pulpit and clevis-rail at the Second Congregational church were draped in the National colors, and at the rear of the audience-room was the motto: "Our fathers trusted in thee; they trusted and thou didst deliver them." (Page 134.) The Rev. Charles R. Seymour preached from Psalms xviii., 34, "He teacheth my hands to war." He showed that although the Christian religion was a religion of peace, yet there were also times when war was a stern necessity. God taught our fathers to war when they fought in the cause of humanity. He also taught those who fought in the Civil war to fight in the cause of right. The speaker gave a brief account of the battle and closed with an eloquent tribute to Vermont as one of the foremost States in all the sisterhood for excellence in education, growth in religion and faithfulness in patriotism, in spite of the drain upon her resources by the emigration to other States.

Union Evening Services. — At the Second Congregational edifice there was a union service of the Second Congregational and the Baptist churches, with music as a special feature. There was

speaking by the two pastors, by Edward J. Hall, Colonel Olin Scott, the Rev. C. C. Cook, and others.

At the Methodist Church there was a patriotic concert by the Sunday School. There were, also, elaborate floral decorations, and prominent among these a miniature Battle Monument of pansies, built nearly four feet high. The Methodist orchestra rendered several selections, and the music was all of a patriotic character.

Centennial Telegraphic Service.—No better telegraphic service could have been asked for by the large corps of newspaper correspondents, in attendance at the Centennial, than was given by Electrician J. M. Moffatt, of New York, and his assistants; and "the boys," of the fraternity were not slow to express their appreciation of the facilities afforded. General Superintendent C. A. Tinker, of New York, is a Vermonter, and for that reason, as well as from a business point of view, he was interested in having the Western Union make a success in meeting the demands of this occasion. A portion of *The Banner* office was devoted to this feature of the Celebration. Two sets of the quadruplex system were put in, besides other instruments, giving the operators control of ten transmission lines. The capacity of the office was 20,000 words an hour, which rather exceeded the demand. The company were at considerable expense, in locating this temporary office; 800 cells of battery were sent here, and put up at *The Banner* office branch, and at the depot. Every possible precaution was taken to prevent any break in the lines; Superintendent N. C. Humstone, of this division, detailed Assistant-Superintendent C. H. Erwin, of New York, to come here and look the ground over carefully, preparatory to locating the office; and the result showed that the plans were well laid, and carried out. Aside from Electrician Moffatt, the working force, at *The Banner* office branch, consisted of H. V. Shelley, night manager at Albany; J. McKenzie, W. L. Brandt, E. H. Simmons, L. W. Windgate, and A. P. Kranshaar, of New York; and Miss Morrison, of Troy. Miss Root, of the local office at Bennington, also rendered material assistance during the week, besides attending to the commercial and miscellaneous despatches. The force handled 100,000 words on this occasion. Lineman Miller was on duty all the time, also, and on the watch for "breakers," which, however, did not show up.

It was a splendid service, and we all knew it, was the verdict of the press-workers.

THE TOWN AND VILLAGE GOVERNMENT.—The Selectmen (E. S. Harris, Samuel C. Lyons, Frank Crawford), took early measures to have a proper police force, which accounts for the good order which prevailed, generally, and which was quite remarkable considering the large crowd in town. In this they were ably seconded by the President and Trustees of the Village. John Robinson, Sheriff, had fifty "specials" on duty, while John Nash, Chief-of-Police, had two hundred special policemen at his order; besides these, there were thirteen uniformed police from Troy, N. Y., under Sergeant Lane. Detectives Butler, of New York; Kavanaugh, of Rochester; Knox, of Boston; Ford and Forrest, of Troy, and Sheriffs Conway and McGrath, of Hoosick Falls, were on duty here. There were only forty arrests.

Members of the Centennial Committee were, also, appointed as special police, and wore badges so designating them.

OTHER TABLETS IN THE MONUMENT. — In the Look Out Room (pages 100, 101), of the Monument, are four historical tablets. These are of Barre granite, and each measures, face surface, three feet three inches by five feet nine inches. The tablets are twenty inches thick and form a part of the solid masonry of the structure.

V.T. HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCORP. NOV. 5, 1838.	
SEAL.	PRESIDENTS.
	HENRY STEVENS.
	HILAND HALL.
	GEO. F. HOUGHTON.
	WM. M. HURD.
	E. P. WALTON.

The Vermont Historical Society's tablet is located above the columns in the North side, and, like the others, is observed from a perspective of from twenty to thirty feet. Aside from the inscription the "emblem" is the seal of the society, in *bas relief*. This seal is a log cabin in the foreground with the figure of an Indian in the distance.

EMBLEM.	G. LE. OF VT., F. & A. M., ORG'D	1794
	G. CH. " " R. A. M.	" 1804
	G. CL. " " R. & S. M.	" 1854
	G. CY. " " K. T.	" 1824
	A. A. S. RITE	" 1868
CORNER STONE LAID BY		
GRAND LODGE AUG. 16TH, 1887.		

The Masonic tablet occupies the East side, under the ceiling, and contains the record of that Fraternity in Vermont. The "emblem" is a combination of the "working tools" of the Craft, including the insignia of the 33°. The Corner-stone being laid by the Freemasons it was eminently proper that the blue flag of the Society should float from the cope-stone when it "was safely seated," as noted. (Page 53.) This flag, and the gavel used in laying the Corner-stone, are safely deposited in the archives of Mount Anthony Lodge, No. 13, of Bennington.

Combination	INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS		
	1819.	.	1889.
Emblem.	VERMONT.		
	1847	GRAND LODGE.	
	1871	GRAND ENCAMPMENT.	
	1888	PATRIARCHS MILITANT.	

In the same relative position on the West side is the Odd Fellows' tablet. The "combination emblem" is a sword and crook crossed, held together by a crown. Suspended from the points are the "three links," the distinctive badge of the Order.

EMBLEM.	GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.	
	———U. S. A.———	
	ORGANIZED OCTOBER 23, 1868.	
G. A. R.		
BADGE.		

The South side is the place of the tablet of the Grand Army of the Republic. The "emblem" is a badge of the Order, and, like the other three, is in *bas relief*. The stripes in the hanger, are distinguished by two kinds of finish.

These tablets were gotten up by Special Committees of the respective organizations named, and the expenses were borne by the State bodies of each. The Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., had some years ago placed a tablet of Vermont marble, suitably engraved, in the Washington Monument; and a number other State societies moved to obtain tablets for the Bennington Battle Monument, but were not in time. The Architect, however, made blue-prints and assigned places, but as the space was not taken none but these four were placed in it. For some reason all the newspaper descriptions of the Monument omit mention of these tablets, and they are, also, overlooked in the "official" description, hence a sketch of them to close this volume.

The four societies are to be congratulated upon the motives and enterprise displayed by each to place such enduring records in the highest battle monument on earth to-day. Momentous events hung upon the issues of Bennington's notable battle; and may its results become symbolic of a like influence upon the societies represented, when their present members, like the fathers of the State, shall have put aside the sword and armor for the Crown.

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PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND
RECEPTION

OF MONUMENTS MARKING

THE CATAMOUNT TAVERN, THE PATRIOT
AND HESSIAN BURIAL PLACE, GENERAL
STARK'S CAMPING-GROUND,

BY CITIZENS TO THE

BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT AND HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION, JUNE 23, 1897.

(SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE "CENTENNIAL BOOKS" OF 1877 AND 1891.)

Illustrated.

BENNINGTON, VERMONT.
PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION.
1898.

PERRY & KEESEMAN,
BOOK PRINTERS,
BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

PREFACE.

At an adjourned annual meeting of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association, held in Bennington, February 3, 1897, among other business transacted, the following was adopted :

Resolved, That a public presentation and acceptance of the monuments erected by citizens of this vicinity take place the week of the gathering of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Vermont, June next, in this village; and that the Department of Vermont, G. A. R., be invited to assist in the ceremonies, as an organization.

A committee of five, of whom Gen. J. G. McCullough was chairman, was appointed to confer with the committee representing the citizens mentioned in the resolution, and a request was made for the names of the donors to place on record in the minutes of the Association. In the proper places will be found the roll of these subscribers, and the committee chosen to represent them.

These committees met in joint conference with the Department Commander, G. A. R., May 14, 1897, and decided on the arrangements for the public exercises, which were carried out to the satisfaction of all concerned, and honorable to the gentlemen having the details in charge. It being then known that the venerable president, Henry G. Root, who had wintered in Southern California, would not be present, Maj. A. B. Valentine, vice-president of the Association, was asked and consented to preside. Frederic B. Jennings was named to deliver the oration and to present the three monuments, marking historic sites in and about Bennington, and Governor Grout kindly accepted an invitation to be present and receive the trust of their custody, in behalf of the State and the Association. Department Commander Puffer, in behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic of Vermont, accepted the duties of executive committee for the ceremonies of the day, and the manner this service was performed is set forth in his "general orders," and in the Proceedings of the 30th Annual Encampment, extracts of which appear in this work.

At the regular annual meeting of the Association, held in Bennington, January 12, 1898, a full report was made of the exercises of June 23, 1897, together with a recommendation that "the presentation and reception of the three monuments :

one marking the site of the Catamount Tavern ; one on the place of the burial of patriots and British soldiers, in the old church-yard ; and one on the site of the camping-ground of Stark's army, the night before the battle, be printed in some form ; thus supplementing the two volumes, already published, relating to the Centennial Celebration of 1877, and the Dedication of the Battle Monument in 1891."

The following motion was adopted : "That the chair appoint a committee of three, on the publication of the report of the proceedings of the dedication of the three monuments, June 23, 1897. The chair appointed : Henry L. Stillson, Samuel B. Hawks, and Harry T. Cushman. The meeting voted that A. B. Valentine be added to and be the chairman of the committee.

In pursuance of the preceding action this supplemental *brochure* is submitted, as an additional contribution to local and state history and as in many ways throwing further light upon a most interesting subject.

HENRY LEONARD STILLSON,
for the Committee.

"The Study," Bennington, Vt., August 25, 1898.



MONUMENT AVENUE, OLD FIRST CHURCH, SHOWING BATTLE AND CATAMOUNT MONUMENTS.

INTRODUCTION.

Attempts to mark historic sites ; the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association ; Amendments to original charter of 1876 ; the object of the Association, and latest code of by-laws ; Marking Historic sites,—the Catamount Tavern, the Patriot and Hessian Burial Place, General Stark's camping-ground August 15, 1777 ; comments upon these subjects as they relate to history.

These supplemental pages should be read in connection with the publications of 1877, and 1891, in order to properly understand the events which led up to the exercises of June 23, 1897. The permanent marking of the sites of the "Catamount Tavern," the "Patriot and Hessian Burial Place," and "General Stark's Camping-ground, August 15, 1777," was the logical sequence to the erection of the Bennington Battle Monument, and the natural outcome of prior marking of historic spots in and about Bennington in connection therewith. At one time a number of places were marked by oak posts, both in Bennington Centre and on the battle-field, by committees and members of the Historical Society, so that when the Association succeeded the aforesaid society, nothing could have been more sensible than that the incorporated body should become the custodian. Its lawful right to assume this trust is shown in the amendments to the charter of the Bennington Battle Monument Association. For the full text of the original reference is made to pages 33, 34, of the Centennial Book of 1891.

AMENDMENTS IN PART.—At the session of the Legislature of 1880, it was enacted that "Section 1, of the Act incorporating the Bennington Battle Monument Association, approved November 28, 1876, is hereby so amended that said Association may take and hold by gift, purchase, devise and otherwise, real and personal estate to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, and the same manage and dispose of for the purposes of said corporation."

At the same session it was enacted that "The Governors of the states of New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, shall be *ex-officio* members of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, and the Governors of Vermont, New Hampshire, and

Massachusetts, shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board of Directors of said Association."

At the session of the Legislature in 1890, it was enacted that "The management, control, and general care of said Bennington Battle Monument, and of the lands around the same, owned by the state of Vermont, shall at all times hereafter be confided to said Bennington Battle Monument Association, which shall at all times have full liberty and authority to make any necessary repairs, changes, additions, or improvements in and about the same; it being expressly understood, however, that nothing in this Act, or section contained, shall be construed as granting to said Battle Monument Association authority to contract debts of any nature in the name of the state of Vermont; or for which said state might become liable, for any of the purposes intended to be covered and described by this section."

At the Legislative session of 1896, it was enacted, "That the Act entitled an Act to Incorporate the Bennington Battle Monument Association, approved November 28, 1876, be amended as follows:

"*First*, The Bennington Battle Monument Association shall hereafter be known as Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association.

"*Second*, Membership of said Association may, at the discretion of the Association, be extended to a number not exceeding one hundred.

"*Third*, Section one of said Act to incorporate Bennington Battle Monument Association is hereby amended by striking out" provision that seven members be elected, annually, from the Bennington Historical society, that had voted to disband and named this Association its residuary legatee.

Also, at the same session, it was enacted:

"Sec. 1. Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association is hereby empowered to erect and maintain a pedestal, surmounted by a bronze catamount, marking the site of the Catamount Tavern in the public highway, in the village of Centre Bennington.

"Sec. 2. If any person wilfully and without authority or right, removes, injures or destroys, or procures, or causes to be removed, injured or destroyed any monument or marker erected by, or in the custody of, the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association, intended to mark any spot of interest connected with the early history of Vermont, or the battle of Bennington, or injures any fence or other erection, trees or shrubbery in or about the grounds owned by, or in the custody

of, said Association in the town of Bennington, or in the town of Shaftsbury, he shall be punished in the same manner as prescribed in sections 5007 and 5008, in Vermont Statutes."

Under the charter of the Association, as amended, the enlarged field of labors and conditions of greater or more varied trusts necessitated a new code of by-laws, and a statement of the object of the Association became of paramount importance.

ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS.

The Object of the Association.—WHEREAS. The state of Vermont having entrusted this Association with the care of the Bennington Battle Monument, and its surrounding grounds, and patriotic citizens having erected other monuments in commemoration of important events in the history of the state, and having asked this Association to accept the care of them, the first object of the Association shall be to discharge the trust imposed upon it, and see to it that the confidence shown is not misplaced. * * * *

It shall be our duty to extend and complete the work thus begun, and collect and preserve the history of this commonwealth, especially that which relates to the New Hampshire Grants, the Battle of Bennington, and the organization of the state. Also, it shall be our duty to provide a home and abiding place for the Association, and other patriotic organizations, by the erection of a memorial hall or other buildings suitable for the purpose, and for the collection and preservation of relics, a cabinet and historical library.

Membership.—The name of any person desiring to become a member of the Association must be presented by a member, and referred to a special committee of three, appointed by the Association in such manner as it may see fit, which committee shall report at a subsequent meeting held not less than one week after the name of the candidate has been proposed. If a vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be cast in favor of the candidate, he shall be declared elected, and when he shall have signed these by-laws, or given a written assent to the placing of his name thereto, and not before, he shall be admitted to full membership; provided, however, that if the person so elected fails to comply with the conditions imposed for the period of one year, then the vote of admission shall be void and of no effect.

Honorary Members.—Honorary members may be admitted to honorary membership in the same manner, who shall have all the privileges of members, except that of taking part in business meetings thereof, or holding office therein.

Officers.—The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, whose duties shall be such as devolve on like officers of similar Associations.

There shall, also, be a Board of thirteen Directors, of whom the governors of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts are by law members *ex-officio*.

The Board of Directors shall be the executive officers of the Association, and, except as otherwise ordered, all the business of the Association shall be done through them, and no money whatever shall be drawn from the treasury except on order of a majority of the Board.

A Board of Auditors, consisting of three members of the Association, shall be annually elected to perform the duties incident to their office.

All officers shall be elected at the annual meeting, by ballot, and shall hold their offices until the next annual meeting, or until their successors are elected; and a vacancy in any office of the Association may be filled by the Board of Directors, until the next annual meeting.

Committees.—A special committee of three, which shall be called the "Historical Committee," shall be appointed by the Association at its annual meeting, in such manner as it may see fit. The duty of this committee shall be such as its name would indicate, and such as the Association may from time to time designate, and it shall be competent for the Association at any annual or special meeting to appoint any other committees, as from time to time it may think best, whose duties shall be indicated at the time of their appointment.

Meetings.—The annual meetings of the Association shall be held on the second Wednesday of January, at such time and place as shall be designated by the Association, or a majority of its Directors; provided, however, that if for any reason the annual meeting should fail of being holden, a special meeting of the Association may be called to do the business of the annual meeting.

Special Meetings.—Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Directors, and the Secretary shall, also, call a special meeting on petition of seven members of the Association, which meetings shall be called by publication in the Bennington village newspapers, at least one week before such meeting is to be held, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give similar notice of annual meetings.

Quorum.—Seven members of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.



CATAMOUNT MONUMENT, BENNINGTON CENTRE.

Alterations or Amendments.—These by-laws may be altered or amended at any meeting of the Association; provided notice has been given of such amendment at a previous meeting, held at least four weeks before action is taken upon the proposed amendment.

Repeal.—All previous by-laws and amendments thereto are hereby abrogated.

THE THREE MARKERS.

MARKING HISTORIC SITES.—During the summer of 1895, the patriotic gentlemen, hereafter named, led by President Henry G. Root, and others of the Association, inaugurated the movement that led to the permanent markers, since transferred to the custody of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association. While there was a general response to the suggestion, yet to Mr. Root should be given the credit for the movement and its successful issue. The sites are three in number, and are illustrated in this work.

That of the "Catamount Tavern" occupies the site of a former marker (now transferred to the Patriot and Hessian Burial Place), the illustration of which and inscription thereon is shown opposite page 8, in the Book of 1891. By way of contrast appears the same scene, relatively, in this publication. The inscription is as follows :

SITE OF THE CATAMOUNT TAVERN, 1767.

The date here attached is placed two years earlier than the inscription of the one which it supplanted, to which reference is made, above. There is no positive evidence as to the exact year in which this historic hostelry was erected. The "about 1769," of the earlier marker was the one in common use by concurrent publications, while the later (1767) is based upon the now known fact that Landlord Fay came to Bennington in 1765, and as early as 1768-9, the "tavern" was a noted place, well-known as a resort of prominent patriots. From this it is inferred that the date of 1767 is none too early as a probable year of the erection or completion of this building, the irreparable loss of which is certainly one of the calamities that has befallen Bennington, and the State of Vermont.

The architect of the battle monument, J. Ph. Rinn, designed the catamount monument; and the bronze "catamount,"

completing it, is by G. Moretti, sculptor. The base is of Ascutney granite, 2 5-8 x 5 2-3 x 7 feet,—one solid block,—and the corners are curving like the larger structure. The figure of the “catamount” is of heroic size and was modelled from life. The whole monument is of such artistic proportions that, especially in perspective, the monument ranks among the finest on the continent.

The Patriot and Hessian Burial Place is in the churchyard of the Old First Church of Christ, Bennington Centre. Here, under the historic spire, patriot and “hireling” of the Revolutionary struggle alike repose in peace. The marker is of Barre granite, 2 7-12 x 4 1-4 x 6 feet,—one solid stone. The inscription is in two parts :

AROUND THIS STONE
LIE BURIED MANY
PATRIOTS WHO FELL
IN THE BATTLE OF
BENNINGTON
AUGUST 16TH, 1777.

HERE ALSO REST BRITISH
SOLDIERS, HESSIANS, WHO DIED
FROM WOUNDS AFTER THE
BATTLE AS CAPTIVES. THEY WERE
CONFINED IN THE FIRST MEETING
HOUSE BUILT IN VERMONT,
WHICH STOOD ON THE GREEN
WEST FROM THIS BURYING GROUND.

BENNINGTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1896.

In the front row of graves in this yard, shown in the Old First Church illustration, lies the dust of such noted Vermont names as these: Captain Moses Robinson, Captain Elijah Dewey, Rev. Jedediah Dewey, Captain Stephen Fay, Captain Samuel Robinson, Lieutenant James Breakenridge, and others.

It is known that many of the Hessians remained in the United States after the close of hostilities, that they settled in various places and became, like the later immigrants from the Germanic States, among the best of our adopted citizens. To the writer, the character given these troops of Great Britain, “hirelings,” etc., has always seemed a harsh verdict, although

true from the American standpoint of the time, and that there must have been mitigating circumstances, or the subsequent life of the survivors was "an enigma of history." We are glad, therefore, to find the comments of Wm. L. Stone in an introduction, in 1886, to a translation of "Pausch's Diary," which had then been recently discovered by Edward J. Lowell in the State Library at Cassel. Captain Pausch was Chief of the Hanan Artillery, and a man of culture, evidenced by the "High" German in which he wrote. Professor Stone says: "This MS. of 170 pp. details the fate and fortune of Pausch and his men from May 15, 1776 (the day they left Hanan), to the close of Burgoyne's last battle, October 7, 1777. Hanan is on the main. The vessels in which they embarked, conveyed them to a transport at the mouth of the Waal, which took them to Spithead, to Quebec and so to the river Sorel. The whole transit occupied three and one-half months. To guard against desertion in passing through the free states on the Rhine, the vessels were either anchored in the middle of the river, or were moored to islands. The transport had been engaged in the Guinea slave-trade, and so was fit for the German slave-trade. She started with one recalcitrant gunner in irons. The *Journal*, also, dwells freely on the personal experiences of its author and his men, while in Canada; and we thus get glimpses into the private life of these execrated Hessian soldiers, which make us lament their hard and unhonored fate."

There is no doubt about the brave fight of these Hessians at the battle of Bennington, and it is shown by the field to-day that it was no easy task for the "embattled farmers" to take the fortified heights defended by trained troops and artillery. Now, if these Hessians were fighting for a foreign king against their will, if the vessels were obliged to keep from land, *en route* to England, for fear of desertions, and individuals died from homesickness during Burgoyne's march toward Albany after their arrival in America, as this diary shows, is it not fair to infer that the fortunes of the day might have been different had these Hessians been fighting for Fatherland instead? If one gunner was in irons on the way to Canada to keep him at all, did he shoot any better at Bennington than he travelled to reach that decisive field? All this is to the credit of the men whose unknown graves, on (to them) a foreign soil, this monument marks.

Of the camping-ground of General Stark's troops, before the battle, the Association owns a plot of land 75 x 100 feet. It has been improved and slopes gently to the highway. In the foreground rises the monument of rough Barre granite,

2 1-2 x 4 x 5 feet, and in the rear is a flag-staff 75 feet high. These grounds can be seen from the Bennington and Rutland railway trains, north of the battle-field, and the flag, from the pole, can be discerned for a long distance. The inscription is from ex-Gov. Hiland Hall's version of General Stark's famous saying, as follows :

GENERAL JOHN STARK'S CAMPING GROUND AUGUST 14, 15, 16, 1777. "THERE ARE THE RED COATS, AND THEY ARE OURS, OR THIS NIGHT MOLLY STARK SLEEPS A WIDOW."

The version used in the Centennial Books of 1877, and 1891, differs slightly from the above, and is accredited to New Hampshire. It was inscribed upon the arch of 1877, situated at the intersection of Main with North and South streets, Bennington village.

During the years 1895-6 the money was raised and these monuments were made and placed in position, thus completing, for all time, the permanent marking of the principal sites of historic interest in Bennington. Moreover, it is safe to affirm that no other locality is better marked. The battle monument stands as the contribution of the National government, the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; the three markers in question attest the liberality of patriotic citizens,—the whole speaking volumes for the interest taken in this historic locality.



CAMPING-GROUND MONUMENT, NEAR NORTH BENNINGTON.

THE CELEBRATION.

Presentation and Reception of the Monuments Marking three Historic Sites, in and about Bennington.—The action taken by the Donors and by the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association.—The Names of Contributors and Preparations for the Event by the Committees and the Grand Army of the Republic.—The Procession and Incidents of the Day.—Public Transfer of the Monuments; Addresses Delivered at the Dedication of Catamount Monument, and Reception by the Governor in the name of the State and Association.—The Campfire at the Vermont Soldiers' Home.

PART I.

RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND COMMITTEES.

EXTRACTS FROM ASSOCIATION MINUTES.—At the annual meeting of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association, held January 20, 1897, the following communication was received :

“ *To the Members of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association :*

“ GENTLEMEN.—In behalf of those who caused to be erected monuments, marking the sites of historic interest, we purpose, if agreeable to you, to turn over to the custody of your society, the granite pedestal, surmounted by a bronze catamount, marking the site of Catamount Tavern ; and the stone, suitably inscribed, on the spot in the old churchyard, where are buried Patriots and British soldiers (Hessians), who were killed or died from wounds received at the battle of Bennington ; and, also, the stone which marks the site where Stark and his army encamped the night before the battle.

“ Trusting that this offer will meet with your approval we remain,

Yours Truly,
H. G. ROOT. A. B. VALENTINE. DANIEL ROBINSON.”
F. A. JENNINGS. M. C. HULING.

The following resolutions were offered by Hon. L. F. Abbott, and were adopted unanimously :

"WHEREAS, A number of gentlemen have generously erected a massive and elegant stone, surmounted by a bronze catamount of great beauty and value, to mark the site of the Catamount Tavern; and have placed a fine block of granite, suitably engraved, on the spot where were buried patriots who fell in the battle of Bennington, and Hessians who died from wounds after the battle; and have, also, secured a site and placed a suitable marker on the field where Stark and his army encamped the day before the battle, and near, if not on the ground where he uttered the historic words of confidence and defiance which are quoted on the stone; and

"WHEREAS, The gentlemen mentioned, through a committee appointed by them, have asked the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association to accept and care for these monuments of enduring stone and bronze; therefore be it

"*Resolved*, That this Association hereby gladly accepts the trust, and pledges itself to protect and care for the monuments marking three places of great historic interest.

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed, to confer with the committee, representing the subscribers to the fund raised for the purpose mentioned, regarding a day when the trust may be publicly given, and publicly accepted."

It was also

"*Resolved*, That John G. McCullough, Irving E. Gibson, Henry L. Stillson, Harry T. Cushman, and Olin Scott be a committee to represent this Association, to act with the committee representing the citizens mentioned, which committees shall have full charge of the ceremonies of the occasion."

The following gentlemen are the citizens, represented by the committee referred to in the resolution offered by Mr. Abbott: John G. McCullough, F. B. Jennings, H. W. Putnam, J. Wool Griswold, John S. Holden, A. B. Valentine, E. D. Welling, W. Seward Webb, Wm. E. Hawks, Olin Scott, H. G. Root, James Colgate, Daniel Robinson, Eli Tiffany, Wm. H. Bradford, F. S. Pratt, E. W. Bradford, Geo. F. Graves, J. H. Walbridge, M. C. Huling, H. C. Lindloff, N. M. Puffer, Mrs. A. B. Valentine, Wm. R. Morgan, E. H. Putnam, Frank Blackmer, L. A. Graves, William Campbell, L. F. Abbott, H. C. White, H. S. Bingham, C. E. Dewey, E. J. Tiffany, J. Ed. Walbridge, I. E. Gibson, C. W. Thatcher, F. O. Graves, S. H. Blackmer, J. T. Shurtleff, E. S. Chandler, Harry T. Cushman, E. A. Booth, C. A. Pierce, H. M. Harris, H. D. Fillmore, S. B. Hawks, Lyman Rogers, R. M. Houghton, John V. Carney, E. L. Sibley, Elijah Dewey, G. A. Packer, John Robinson, Burt Brothers, C. H. Darling, L. P. Norton, Geo.

W. Harman, F. M. Tiffany, Geo. B. Wellington, Geo. W. Worthington, Russell Coal Company, W. E. Putnam, Edward Swift, J. Edward Isham, Norman B. Squires, A. P. Childs, H. C. Simmons, William Sanford, Samuel Keyes, A. W. Braisted, Mary R. Sanford, Edward L. Bates, R. J. Coffey, M. B. Houghton, W. D. Newton, H. E. Burgess, J. K. Batchelder, Hobart Robinson, Sophia E. Park, J. Ph. Rinn, Henry D. Hall.

The conditions of subscription stipulated that H. G. Root, F. B. Jennings, Daniel Robinson, A. B. Valentine, and Milo C. Huling should represent the subscribers in the expenditure of the fund, and in all matters pertaining to the enterprise.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEES.—At a joint meeting of the committee appointed to act for the contributors to the fund for the erection of three monuments marking historic sites in and about Bennington, with the committee appointed by the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association, and the Department Commander of the G. A. R. of Vermont, held at the office of A. B. Valentine, May 14, 1897, Major A. B. Valentine was elected chairman, and H. L. Stillson, secretary.

The following provisions were unanimously adopted :

“ *First*, That arrangement should be made for the presentation of the aforesaid monuments to the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association June 23d, next.

“ *Second*, That A. B. Valentine, in behalf of the subscribers ; Gen. J. G. McCullough, in behalf of the Monument Association’s committee ; and Department Commander N. M. Puffer, in behalf of the Grand Army Republic of Vermont, be appointed an executive committee to arrange for the exercises of the occasion.

“ *Third*, That Frederick B. Jennings, of New York, be invited in behalf of the subscribers, to publicly present the markers mentioned to the Monument Association, and to make an address in connection therewith.

“ *Fourth*, That Department Commander Puffer be requested to take the entire charge of the procession on the occasion, and all that may appertain thereto.

“ Adjourned.

“ H. L. STILLSON, *Secretary*.”

ACTION BY THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.—In “General Orders No. 15,” Department Commander Puffer said : “ I would respectfully call your attention to the following resolution received from the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association :

“ ‘Resolved, That the public presentation to, and acceptance by, the Association of the monuments marking places of historic interest, erected by the citizens of this vicinity, take place the week of the gathering of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Vermont, June next, in this village, and that the Department of Vermont G. A. R. be invited to assist in the ceremonies as an organization.’

“ ‘Representing the committee in charge, I have the pleasure of inviting you, in your official capacity, to take charge of the procession which we hope will be composed largely of veterans ; and to cooperate with the committee representing the citizens referred to, and the Association.

“ ‘Yours truly,

“ ‘A. B. VALENTINE.’

“ I consider it a deserved honor to accept the invitation, inasmuch as the ceremony of laying the corner-stone, and dedication of our Battle Monument, was by other societies. It remains for the Grand Army of the Republic to hand over these marks of history to a perpetual society that will, not only keep green the memory of our ancestors, but will establish memorials that will mark the valor of you and your sons who accepted the call of the immortal Lincoln.”

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.—At the annual meeting of the Association, held January 12, 1898, the following report was presented and adopted :

“ *To Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association :*

“ Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of making arrangements for a suitable ceremony at the public presentation of the three monuments, lately erected by patriotic and public-spirited citizens of the town of Bennington, and presented to the Association and State, respectfully report :

“ The 23d of June, 1897, was chosen as the day for the ceremonies mentioned, it being at the time of the 30th Annual Encampment, of the Department of Vermont, Grand Army of the Republic, in Bennington. The veterans of Vermont heartily and enthusiastically joined with us in making the ceremonies on the occasion a success. Department Commander N. M. Puffer acted as Chief Marshal, having charge of all that pertained to the procession. The procession was formed at the Soldiers’ Home, and under charge of the Chief Marshal and aids, marched from the Home by way of School and Main streets to the monument marking the site of the Catamount Tavern ; the Bennington Rifles, the High School Cadets, with the bands of Bennington and North Bennington, acting as escorts. The President of the Association, the Hon. Henry G.

Root, being unable to be present, the Vice-President discharged the duties of presiding officer. Frederic B. Jennings, son of the Rev. Isaac Jennings, who so long took an active part in this Association, was chosen by the committee representing the subscribers to be the Orator of the occasion, in the presentation of the monuments to the Association and State. His Excellency, Josiah Grout, a Director of the Association, consented in behalf of the Association and the State to receive the monuments. The Association is under many obligations to Mr. Jennings for his able and exhaustive oration, and to Governor Grout for his fine address of acceptance; and, also, to many prominent citizens present, representing the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York. Not less than 5,000 people were present, the day was fine, and all the conditions were favorable to the successful carrying out of the programme. While at previous exercises of this kind in Bennington, larger processions and more people have been present, yet none were better managed or more fully came up to our expectations. There was no effort made to advertise and bring in a large concourse of people, yet great interest was shown, and a very much larger number were present than had been expected. The Association and the people of Bennington have reason to congratulate themselves on the success of the ceremonies of the 23d of last June.

“It seems to the committee that an account of the presentation and reception of the three monuments: one marking the site of the Catamount Tavern; one on the place of the burial of Patriots and British soldiers in the old churchyard; and one on the site of the camping-ground of Stark’s army the night before the battle, should be printed in some form, thus supplementing the two volumes already published relating to the Centennial Celebration of 1877, and the Dedication of the Monument in 1891. A very good way to accomplish this would be to publish it under the same cover with the three hundred unbound volumes of the proceedings of the Dedication of the Monument in 1891.”

PART II.

THE PROCESSION AND SPEECHES.

THE PROCESSION AND OTHER EVENTS.—The following extracts from the “Unofficial Proceedings,” of the 30th annual Encampment, tell, also, the story of the day from the standpoint of the Grand Army of the Republic:

"*Wednesday, June 23d.*—The exercises following our encampment this year were of a different character than those of former years, but not less interesting. The celebration in connection with the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Society, brought a large concourse of people from other States to assist in completing the work of patriotic citizens, who have sacrificed time and money, the past thirty years, projecting and erecting these memorials in honor of Vermont's early ancestry. The mills and places of business were closed and every one turned out to either participate in, or to witness, the parade and exercises. At ten o'clock the Governor, escorted by Co. K, V. N. G. and the Graded School Cadets, drove to the Soldiers' Home, where the parade formed at 11:30, upon arrival of excursion train. The parade was made up as follows :

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Detachment of Police in Uniform.

Ex-Department Commander Puffer, Chief Marshal, and Department Commander Jewett, both mounted.

Aides, mounted—D. M. Blackmer, C. D. Gibson,²A. M. Downs, D. H. Rudd. Capt. Jack Crawford, S. B. Hawks, and Wm. E. Hawks, jr., mounted and in "Wild West" costumes.

Bennington City Band.

Detachment of Veterans.

Co. K, Bennington Rifles, Capt. C. F. Burnham, commanding.

Bennington Drum Corps.

Battalion, Graded School Cadets:

North Bennington Band.

Comrades of the Grand Army.

Veterans from the Soldiers' Home, Colonel Coffey, commanding.

Carriages with Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Orator of the Day, and other invited guests.

The line of March was from the Soldiers' Home grounds, North street, to Gage, to School, to Main, to the Catamount Tavern Monument at Bennington Centre. The Graded School Cadets in blue coats, caps, and white duck trousers were received enthusiastically all along the line. The veterans from the Soldiers' Home were, also, warmly applauded. A large stand had been erected at the monument and the distinguished visitors had seats thereon. Among these were Governor Grout, Lieut. Governor Fisk, ex-Lieutenant Governor Mansur, ex-Commander-in-Chief Palmer of New York, ex-Department Commander Linehan of New Hampshire, Gen. J. G. McCullough, Frederic B. Jennings, New England Pension Agent Cogswell, Gen. Gilmore, Captain Tutherly, Capt. Jack Crawford, Auditor Hale, ex-Governor Stewart, Judge Hugh Henry, J. Ph. Rinn, the architect of the Bennington Battle Monument,



N. M. PUFFER, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, G. A. R., 1896-7.

Department Commander Jewett and several Bennington gentlemen, and a number of ladies, mostly prominent members of the Woman's Relief Corps.''

ADDRESS OF VICE-PRESIDENT VALENTINE.—

Ladies and Gentlemen.—On account of the unavoidable absence of the President, the Hon. Henry G. Root, it devolves upon the Vice-President to preside on this occasion.

We meet under the auspices of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association, for the purpose of receiving in a public manner three granite monuments, marking sites of great historic interest, erected by public-spirited and patriotic citizens.

It seems fitting that their work should thus receive public recognition, especially on this day of a great gathering of veterans, who have united with us to make the occasion a success, and what success is attained, will be due in a great measure, to the active labor, and co-operation of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Vermont.

It is especially appropriate that a man born near this spot, one whose father took great interest in the objects of this society, should represent the gentlemen making these gifts, and among whom he was prominent.

We are fortunate, also, in the presence of the Governor of the State, and a Director of the Association. As is well known, Vermont made liberal provision for the commemoration of the battle of Bennington, and this Association is but an agent to carry out the wishes of the State. The fact that our National government and the States of Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, united with Vermont in this enterprise should not be forgotten.

As Governor of the State, and a Director of the Association, His Excellency, Josiah Grout, will receive in the name of the State and of the Association these granite markers. Chief of them is the stone by which we stand, surmounted by a great work of art in bronze, marking a spot of unequalled interest in Vermont, for here Vermont was born.

I have the pleasure of introducing to you, our townsman, Frederic B. Jennings, a native of Bennington, and son of the Rev. Doctor Isaac Jennings, who for more than thirty-five years resided in this village as pastor of the oldest church organization in the State.

ORATION OF MR. JENNINGS, PRESENTING THE MONUMENTS.—

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.—This strong and admirable work of art has been erected by private subscription

to mark the site of the Catamount Tavern. At the same time there have been erected two other historic monuments. One of these stands, in the neighboring churchyard, over the grave of patriots who fell in the Battle of Bennington. The other, west of North Bennington, upon a beautiful hillside overlooking the lovely valley of the Walloomsac, and almost within sight of the battle-field, marks the spot where General Stark encamped the day before the battle.

The Committee representing the subscribers has allotted to me the pleasant duty of presenting these three monuments, on their behalf, to the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association. It seems fitting, in making such presentation, that some reference should be made to the events which they commemorate and to the lessons which they teach.

The world is filled with monuments erected for the most part to commemorate the victories of war—victories which, though bought with priceless lives, are yet sanctified by the sacrifices made and glorified by their results. It would be terrible indeed if the sad havoc of "grim-visaged" war were its only, or even its chief, feature or result. It would be sad indeed if, glancing down the page of history and reviewing its great battles, one could see only the saddened and desolate homes, the lives suddenly cut short, with all their plans and promise extinguished. There are other sides to the picture, which thrill our hearts quite as much as they are saddened. The heroism displayed, the glorious achievements accomplished, the principles vindicated, not only excite our admiration and arouse our enthusiasm, but, best of all, they stir the latent foundations of patriotism within us. They are not only a delight, but an inspiration, and they reproduce and develop those qualities which have made victories possible in the past, and will make those victories ever after fruitful of like victories.

Who can hear unmoved the story of that gallant old man, Stephen Fay, who sent five sons forth from this spot to the battle, and, when the oldest was brought back dead, thanked God that he had a son willing to die for his country, and that he fell fighting bravely. His heroic and touching behavior almost brings tears to our eyes, yet not tears of sorrow—for we do not sorrow over the events of one hundred years ago—but tears of exultation and patriotism at the bearing and conduct of the man.

Battles are not always justified by the material results which follow. These could, many times, be accomplished by compromise or other peaceful means. Their cost in lives and treasure is often greater than their direct results; but who shall say that they are not worth all they cost, for their maintenance of prin-

ciple, their preservation of self-respect and their inspiration to patriotism !

However much we may look forward to and long for the era of universal arbitration and peace, we must admit that there are no stronger forces for patriotism than the great battles of the world. Their memories, whether recalled in history or legend or story, never fail to stir the blood, to fire the heart, and encourage and strengthen those qualities of determination, independence, self-reliance and fortitude which create character, and constitute true greatness, whether of the individual, the state, or the nation.

It is fitting, then, that we should preserve and cherish these precious memories, not only for ourselves and our children, but for all peoples and all times.

Thermopylæ did not belong to Greece alone nor to its own time alone, but its memory has come down through the ages and taught all men the virtue of Spartan valor. So Bennington does not belong to Vermont alone, nor even to those two sister States which contributed so largely to its success, but to all freemen everywhere. The fame of the Green Mountain Boys, like that of the Spartans of old, shall live through all time as the synonym of courage and daring.

The story of the battle has been so often and so eloquently told that I need not detain you long in referring to it.

The British plan of campaign was to gain possession of the valleys of the Hudson, and the Mohawk, thus separate New England from the South, and break the union of the colonies.

Howe was already in possession of New York City with a considerable force, and was expected to advance up the Hudson and form a junction with the northern forces at Albany. Burgoyne, with a strong force from Canada, was to proceed by the lakes, retake Ticonderoga, the gateway of the North, and then move down the Hudson, joining Howe at Albany. St. Leger, with a smaller force, was to go up the St. Lawrence, take Fort Stanwix, and then proceed down the Mohawk and rejoin Burgoyne. The junction of the three armies at Albany was thus expected to complete the conquest of New York, and, had it been accomplished as planned, would have been of the most serious consequences to the Colonies. The plan of the British was being carried out with unvarying success. Ticonderoga had fallen without a blow. At Hubbardton, after a desperate resistance, the rear guard of the retreating Americans had been routed. Burgoyne had thus far met with little loss, and already looked upon success as easy and certain. He could almost hear King George bursting into the Queen's apartments and exclaim-

ing, "I have beat all the Americans." The English everywhere were exultant and the Americans dismayed.

But Burgoyne's anticipations of an easy and triumphal march from Ticonderoga to the Hudson were not entirely fulfilled. Relying upon assistance from the alleged loyalist feeling on the Vermont frontier and in the northern part of New York, he was greatly disappointed. Instead of receiving the expected aid he was harassed at every step. Bridges were destroyed, obstacles placed in his path and his progress retarded. He succeeded in reaching the Hudson at Fort Edward, but with so much delay that he had difficulty in providing subsistence and ammunition for his men, and he subsequently wrote that "the New Hampshire Grants in particular, a country unpeopled and almost unknown in the late war, now abounds in the most active and most rebellious race of the Continent, and hangs like a gathering storm on my left." This storm was about to break in a way little expected, and with results the importance of which could not be foreseen.

Burgoyne sent a detachment of his troops under Baum to capture the stores at Bennington and to disperse the yeomen collecting there. They reached the farm by the river, near the battle-field, on August 14th, and on the 15th entrenched themselves on the hill to the north.

Meanwhile the new-born State of Vermont, though startled by the news from Ticonderoga and Hubbardton, was not dismayed. Exposed to the incursion of the British forces, she promptly prepared to defend herself and the New England States behind her. Expresses were sent in all directions. Vermont called upon New Hampshire, and the White Mountains responded to the Green by hastily collecting their militia and sending them forward under Stark. Stark, while on the way, was ordered to join Schuyler at Stillwater. The Council of Safety, then in session upon this spot, having received reports of Baum's expedition, urged Stark to remain and assist in the defense of the Grants, to which he promptly assented. On the 14th, Stark with his militia, re-enforced by the Vermont farmers and assisted by Warner, marched out to meet the enemy. He was unable to bring them to an engagement, and encamped at the spot which has been marked by one of the monuments which we dedicate to-day.

It rained all day on the 15th, and nothing was done, save to send out small parties to harass the enemy. During the night, a company of Berkshire militia arrived with Parson Allen, who complained to Stark that the Berkshire people had often been called out to no purpose, and expressed their eager-

ness to begin the fight. Stark replied: "As soon as the Lord shall once more send us sunshine, if I don't give you fighting enough, I will never ask you to come out again." On the 16th, the sun rose bright and clear, and Stark prepared to redeem his promise to the fighting parson. Having arranged his plan of attack with great skill, and inspired his men by pointing out the redcoats and announcing in those words, which have become historic, his determined purpose to win the fight or die upon the field, he and his brave men marched forth to battle.

There was no beating of drums, no inspiring music, no dazzling uniforms, no bright swords or guns flashing in the sunlight, no martial array. They were simply a band of resolute, determined farmers, armed, perhaps, with rusty flintlocks, certainly in the crudest way, but also armed with the irresistible determination to win that battle. They were fighting for their homes and their country — homes which they had won, in contests with the forces of nature, against odds as great as those they were about to encounter.

They had met and overcome great hardship and danger in the past and thus had acquired those qualities of endurance, determination and courage which made them invincible. What matter, then, that they were yeomen untrained in the art of war, rudely equipped, without cannon, without experience, without bayonets, perhaps without proper or sufficient arms? What matter that they had to charge an almost impregnable position fortified and defended by the trained forces of Germany? They were hirelings. What matter that the wild savages, skilled in the warfare of the woods, were also opposed to them? They, too, were hirelings. The American farmers were freemen. They had right on their side. They had stout hearts, cool heads, strong arms. They were filled with a courage born of the conviction that their cause was just, nerved with the strength of their indignation, at their wrongs, crowned with the glory of true patriotism, and nothing could withstand them on that fair August day. They charged the intrenched British with resistless fury, seized the smoking guns and turned them upon the enemy, and drove the veteran troops before them. Re-enforced by Warner's regiment, which had just arrived, they renewed the attack against fresh foes under Breymann and completely routed them.

The numbers engaged on either side were not greatly dissimilar, but the British forces were unable to resist the fierce onset of the yeomen, and were almost annihilated. Two hundred and seven of the British were killed, and more than seven

hundred taken prisoners, while of the Americans only fourteen were killed and forty-two wounded.

The achievement of the Americans, with so little loss to themselves and such great loss to the enemy, was phenomenal and difficult to understand. God must have fought on their side that day—the God of the Hills—and they must have been filled with the rugged strength of the mountains that looked down in benediction upon the result.

This signal victory filled all true American hearts with joy. Its glad light dispelled the gloom which had followed the previous British successes. Despondency gave place to exultation and hope. The disaffection of lukewarm supporters of the American cause was arrested. The fact that a body of untrained yeomanry could thus annihilate an army of German regulars, whose reputation for bravery and discipline was well-known, gave a new impetus and inspiration to the American cause. Re-enforcements poured in upon Schuyler at Stillwater and Lincoln at Manchester. Burgoyne became disheartened at the dangers which increased around him, and the subsequent defeats at Stillwater and Bemis Heights, and Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, followed as the natural and necessary result of the glorious victory of Bennington. Thus this battle, though small in the numbers engaged, was truly great, not only in the bravery exhibited, but also in its results.

We may well, then, again celebrate this splendid victory. We cannot too often recall the gallant deeds of August 16, 1777, or pay our tribute of praise to the memories of the brave men who won the battle.

It is the old story of one hundred years ago. It has been told by father to son, sung in anthems of joy and praise, rehearsed in the eloquent words of the orator and the poet countless times, and yet the story is ever new and ever fresh, and will remain so until patriotism is dead and the illustrious deeds done in its name and under its inspiration cease to arouse admiration and pride.

But we chiefly celebrate, to-day, the victories of peace no less renowned than those of war.

In erecting this monument to commemorate the Catamount Tavern of those early days, we especially recall and perpetuate the memories of those events connected with the land-grant controversy with New York, which created or developed not only the warriors who won the battle, but also those patriot statesmen, to whose wise and determined counsel and action the birth of the State of Vermont is largely due.



FREDERIC B. JENNINGS.

The record of those events in the early history of Vermont, from the settlement of the New Hampshire Grants down to the establishment of the State, would largely constitute a history of this inn. Captain Stephen Fay came to Bennington among the earlier settlers in 1766, and soon after erected the house which was then known as "Green Mountain House" or "Landlord Fay's." The people of the Grants were then engaged in their controversy with New York. They had purchased their lands under grants from the Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, whose jurisdiction over the territory as far west as the Hudson River had been acquiesced in by New York for a century.

With the utmost difficulty and hardship and danger they had rescued their homes from the wilderness. The woods had been felled, the lands tilled, their humble but happy homes established, and the settlers were just beginning to enjoy the fruits of their hard contest with nature, when they were rudely alarmed to find a harder and more protracted contest awaiting them.

New York speculators had looked on with covetous eyes while the territory adjoining them was being subdued by the hardy settlers. Through personal and political influence they obtained patents from the Governor of the Province of New York, covering lands included in the New Hampshire Grants. An order of the King, procured by New York influence in 1764, extended the boundary of New York to the Connecticut River. This could not affect the vested rights of the inhabitants holding under grants from the Governor of the neighboring Province, acting as the King's agent, and, when the matter was laid before the King's Council by a representative sent from this town in 1767, an order was promptly made forbidding any interference with existing grants, or any new grants, by New York, until the King's further decision should be known. But the New York Governor, heedless of the King's order, and tempted by the fees which he was unable to resist, continued to issue patents.

The alarm of the settlers, which had been somewhat allayed, was again excited by the attitude of New York and the claims of its patentees, who sent surveying parties into the territory and endeavored to secure possession of the lands covered by their patents.

Suits in ejectment, brought in the New York courts, were uniformly decided in favor of the New York claimants.

Ethan Allen, who had vainly defended the settlers in some of these suits at Albany, was advised to go home and recom-

mend submission on the ground that "might made right." Allen understood the indomitable spirit of his neighbors better than his advisers, and retorted that "the Gods of the Valleys are not the Gods of the Hills," and, when asked for an explanation, replied that "if they would come to Bennington the meaning should be made clear to them." He fulfilled his promise, and, in the subsequent years of this controversy, it must have been made quite clear to the Yorkers that among the rugged hills of Vermont "right made might."

The settlers were not opposed to the jurisdiction of New York, provided their vested rights were recognized and preserved, but they were unwilling to surrender or imperil those rights. They had been trained in the hard but free school of Nature; they had breathed in the unconquerable spirit of liberty with the pure air of the mountains; they were devoid of fear and incapable of dishonor, and they recognized no power which could rob them of their homes or deprive them of their rights.

But they were peaceable and law-abiding citizens, and the question which faced them was momentous. On the one hand, submission meant the sacrifice of their property or its re-purchase from New York and the surrender of their principles; on the other, opposition meant resistance to the authority of the law and defiance of the comparatively powerful government of New York.

Throughout this long controversy, and in all the struggles of the early settlers, we can find no act entitled to greater glory than their answer to this question, to which Vermont owes its existence as an independent State to-day. How did they decide it? In the good old New England way, at a town meeting—that "nursery of American independence"—held in this village, and perhaps on this very spot, in 1770.

We may well pause a moment to recall this important scene. There were Allen and Warner and Robinson and Breakenridge and Stephen Fay and their patriotic neighbors. Parson Dewey no doubt opened the meeting with prayer, addressed to the God of the Hills and not to the gods of the Valleys, and we can well imagine that he prayed for wisdom and strength and not for ignoble peace. The important question was then presented and discussed in all its aspects. The position was a critical one, more critical even than they understood, for upon their decision hung the fate of the future state.

The territory was sparsely settled; their homes and villages were widely scattered; communication was difficult; their means of defense scanty. It seemed almost suicidal to

brave the Government of New York. It would have been so easy to compromise. A tithe of what the long controversy was to cost would have purchased their peace.

Did they hesitate? Did they falter in their decision? Did they shrink from the difficulties and dangers before them? Not they! Were these considerations of mere expediency advocated or even suggested by any one present? No. We can emphatically answer, no. Had they been, we can imagine with what forceful words Ethan Allen would have brushed them aside. Such suggestions involved not only the surrender of their homes, but the sacrifice of their principles. Justice had been denied them. The New York Courts had been packed. The law had shown itself unequal to the occasion, and nothing now remained but a direct appeal to force.

They promptly resolved to protect their property and maintain their rights, and that the execution of all writs issued by the New York Courts should be resisted, if necessary, by force, and to this resolution they ever after faithfully adhered.

Thus, in this village, and probably upon this spot, Vermont's declaration of war against New York was made. In the events which led to it, the heroic love of liberty which inspired it, and the courage and persistence with which it was afterward maintained, it may well be compared with the revolt of the Colonies against Great Britain which made our country free.

The spirit of liberty was abroad in the air. It had already begun to stir the leaves throughout New England and in the Southern Colonies. The electric speeches of Patrick Henry in Virginia and of James Otis in Massachusetts, inveighing against the Stamp Act and insisting upon the inalienable rights of British freemen, had already rung through the land in trumpet tones. The so-called "Boston Massacre" had just occurred, and a town meeting in the Old South Church, guided by that wise and far-seeing patriot, who has been called the "Father of the Revolution," Samuel Adams, had insisted that the armed regiments of the mother country in Boston were a menace to the freedom of the people and must be withdrawn.

But, while events were thus rapidly shaping themselves for the independence of the Colonies, they were not yet prepared for open, forcible resistance. That other town meeting in the Old South Church, which led to the heroic action of Boston in refusing to permit the landing of the obnoxious tea, did not occur until three years later. That was Massachusetts' declaration of war, and it has been said that, "for the quiet sublimity of reasonable but dauntless moral purpose, the heroic annals of

Greece and Rome can show no greater scene than that which the Old South meeting-house witnessed on the day when the tea was destroyed."

It was sublime in its exhibition of moral purpose; it was heroic in its disregard of the probable consequences; it was splendid in its spontaneous outburst of liberty—and yet, in the display of all these qualities, in devotion to all these principles, it is well matched by that other town meeting, held three years earlier on this spot, at which the Green Mountain boys resolved to maintain their rights at all hazards.

In July, 1771, a determined attempt was made by the Sheriff of Albany County and a posse of three hundred men to take possession of the Breakenridge farm, and this resolution was put to the severest test. But the settlers did not waver. They assembled here and marched to the farm fully prepared to resist the attempt. The house was barricaded and filled with armed men, while other bodies of armed men lay in wait outside. So complete were their preparations for resistance, and so determined their attitude, that the Sheriff's posse were completely routed, and retired without a blow. This was the first instance of combined, armed resistance to the authority of New York, which continued until the inhabitants of the Grants abandoned all attempt at an amicable settlement and established an independent State. Upon this farm, then, or, perhaps better yet, at the preceding town meeting in this village, was born the future State of Vermont.

The resolution of this town meeting at Bennington was generally approved at meetings held in the adjoining towns, which followed its example in resisting all attempts of the New York speculators to gain possession of their lands. At first the settlers depended, for the protection of their homes from such invasion, upon the individuals collected in the neighborhood, but later a military organization was effected. This was first accomplished in this village, and the idea was, no doubt, conceived and the plans arranged in the Green Mountain House, a few months after the Breakenridge affair. Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, who then lived here, were appointed the colonel and captain of the organization. Thus was created the body which afterwards assumed the name of "Green Mountain Boys."

In December, 1771, Governor Tryon warned all settlers on the Grants that his Government proposed to suppress all opposition to its authority by the most severe measures, and offered a reward for the apprehension of Allen and Baker and others. This proclamation only increased the spirit of opposition on the part of the settlers, who retorted by offering a reward for the

capture, and delivery at Landlord Fay's, of Duane and Kempe, two of the most obnoxious of the speculators, who were described as "common disturbers of the public peace."

Governor Tryon, becoming alarmed at the determined opposition of the settlers, tried the effect of peaceable negotiations, in which Captain Stephen Fay and Dr. Jonas Fay, his son, represented them. These negotiations at first promised a peaceful solution of the controversy, and were welcomed by the people at Bennington with demonstrations of great joy. But the hope thus created was short-lived. The negotiations proved fruitless. The New York claimants continued to press their claims, which were always successfully resisted by the settlers, rather by their determined and threatening attitude than by actual violence; and during the whole controversy, lasting for over twenty years, not a single person was killed or permanently maimed.

During this controversy, which was largely directed by meetings held at Landlord Fay's, a stuffed catamount was put upon his sign-post grinning defiance at New York. In 1774 one of the settlers, who advocated purchasing title from New York, was tried for disloyalty at the Green Mountain House and sentenced "to be tied in an armchair and hoisted up to the sign, there to hang for two hours as a punishment merited by his enmity to the rights and liberty of the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants."

Collisions with the New York claimants, though less frequent as they became satisfied of the determination of the Green Mountain Boys, continued to occur until the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.

The patriotism displayed in this war by the inhabitants of the Grants cannot be over-estimated. Mere considerations of self-interest would have led them to espouse the royal cause, or at least have made them lukewarm in their opposition to it. British tyranny had not yet oppressed them. The last order of the King had favored the protection of their property; they were even then expecting further favorable action from him. On the other hand, New York had assailed their rights and refused them justice for many years. The Continental Congress, influenced by New York, denied them representation, and advised submission to New York. Although fighting for the common country, it was uncertain whether that country would recognize them or admit them to the union of States, but this did not deter them nor abate their patriotism or zeal. Their love of liberty prevailed over considerations of self-interest.

Ethan Allen says: "The battle of Lexington almost distracted them, for interest inclined them to the royal side in the dispute, but the stronger impulses of affection to their country impelled them to resent its wrongs"; and, again, that "they believed the cause of the country to be just," and that "resistance to Great Britain had become the indispensable duty of a free people." They accordingly resolved to take an active part with the country. No more sublime example of disinterested loyalty and patriotism can be found. Vermont was the northern frontier and, throughout the early years of the war, was exposed to the incursion of the forces from Canada, and yet, although treated with hostility by New York, their appeals neglected by Congress, they continued with unfaltering courage to defend the rights and fight the battles of the Colonies. In Canada, at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, at Bennington, at Saratoga, during the invasion of Vermont, they rendered the most splendid service to the common cause.

But they never lost sight of their purpose to protect their rights against the unjust claims of New York, and, in that connection displayed a wisdom and firmness no less conspicuous than their loyalty and bravery.

At the very outset they petitioned Congress that they might serve under their own organization, and, on June 23, 1775—just one hundred and twenty-two years ago to-day—Congress adopted a resolution recommending the employment in the army of "those called 'Green Mountain Boys' under such officers as they should choose."

Later, when Congress, influenced by its New York members, advised the settlers to submit to the Government of New York and serve under its association, they determined to unite the Grants in a separate district. They adopted a form of association, in which the subscribers solemnly engaged to defend the United American States against all hostile attempts of the British fleets and armies; but, at the same time, they resolved that any persons subscribing to any other association under the province of New York should be "deemed enemies to the common cause of the New Hampshire Grants."

Thus the settlers declared their independence of the State of New York, and their resolute determination not to submit to its government.

From this it was an easy step to the formation of an independent State, which was completed by the adoption of the constitution at Windsor on July 2nd, just before the battle of Bennington.

Such, in hurried outline, is the story of the events we celebrate to-day. The greatest praise has been justly accorded to the Colonies for their spirited revolt against oppression and their establishment of an independent nation. The history of that contest is fully paralleled, in all its essential features, by the grand story of Vermont.

In that contest with Great Britain the American freemen were more true to their birthright of Anglo-Saxon freedom and liberty than she. The American Declaration of Independence was but the fuller and more triumphant song, to which the Great Charter of English liberty, granted at Runnymede five hundred years before, was the prelude. Vermont's declaration of independence was part of the same song, inspired by the same spirit, set to the same music, voiced by the same manner of men.

In all the events which led to that independence the Catamount Tavern played a most important part.

Here the Committee of Safety of the town met. Here, during the land-grant controversy, congregated the leading men, who directed the sentiment of the neighboring settlers and formed and executed those plans which made them successful in that controversy. Here, in 1775 was perfected the plan for the capture of Ticonderoga, and the Committee of the Grants undertook its execution, placing Ethan Allen in charge. From this place Allen and Warner and Herrick and their band of brave Green Mountain Boys went forth upon that important expedition.

Here sat the Council of Safety to whose activity and urgency the success at Bennington was largely due. Here met the first Assembly of the State in June, 1778, by adjournment, after first forming at Windsor. Here sat the Governor and his Council.

As we look out upon this lovely village street and recall the scenes it witnessed one hundred years ago, we may well count ourselves fortunate to proudly claim as part of our common heritage this beautiful and memorable spot. Bathed in the sunshine of the summer's sun, fresh with the verdure and fragrant with the flower-scented air of Spring, surrounded by the mountains which look down upon it, and the peaceful valley lying at its feet; instinct with the memories of the days long gone, of the wisdom and firmness and independence and valor which emanated from this spot; truly the ground whereon we stand is hallowed ground.

Elsewhere the mountains rise to a greater height; the sunlight rests with the same glory on other hills; the same freshness and fragrance of Spring carpets the fields and perfumes the

air of other valleys in our State. But I know of no place in which the lessons of true patriotism can so well be learned as here. Here was formed the determination and plan of resistance to New York, which grew and developed during the years of subsequent controversy, until it resulted in the creation of the State. Here was born the noble band of Green Mountain Boys.

How has their example been followed and their spirit imitated? I do not need to ask in this presence. The loyal heart of every Grand Army man present will furnish the ready answer. In the dark days of '61, when the life of the nation was in peril and brave men everywhere were called out to save it, none responded to the call more promptly or generously than Vermont. And, through the years of strife that followed, the gallant Vermont Brigades made a new name for fidelity and courage not surpassed by that of the Green Mountain Boys themselves. The ashes of our heroic dead, upon the fields of Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and upon the many battle-fields of the South, bear silent but impressive testimony that the lessons, which we commemorate to-day, were not taught in vain. The gallant deeds of the Vermont Brigades furnish convincing proof that the spirit of the Green Mountain Boys is not lost, but still endures, and that, in any time of stress and danger, Vermont and Vermonters can always be depended on.

To perpetuate such memories as these, to create and encourage such a spirit as this, these monuments have been erected.

Not alone nor chiefly for the historic dead—the brave warriors and wise statesmen of those early days. Their names are written on the scroll of Fame in letters of light more imperishable than any we can inscribe on these monuments of stone and bronze—Stark and Warner, and Allen and Herrick, and Fay and Chittenden, and the noble band of Green Mountain Boys.

“ It needs no monumental pile
To tell each storied name ;
The fair green hills rise proudly up
To consecrate their fame.”

These monuments have been erected rather to recall and commend to present and future generations the principles they successfully struggled to maintain, the qualities they displayed, the lessons of liberty and patriotism they taught.

If we have interpreted aright the spirit and action of the early settlers, the lessons to be learned are the same lessons of patriotism, freedom and independence, which have made, and, if not forgotten, will continue to make, our country the freest and greatest on earth—a patriotism which shall not give place



JOSIAH GROOT, GOVERNOR, 1896-8.

to politics, a freedom which shall defy all interference with the personal rights of the citizen, an independence which shall be individual as well as national, shall preserve the franchise unsullied, the Government pure, and shall make our State, as well as our Nation, a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

This catamount still stands as in days of yore, and shall ever stand, in token of defiance; but no longer of the State of New York, with which we have been at peace for a hundred years; no longer of Great Britain. Not such are our enemies to-day. Our foes are no longer to be looked for from without. But, wherever assaults in any form shall be made upon the free institutions which our fathers fought to establish and preserve, there are our foes. And, wherever they are, whether within or without, whether open enemies or false friends, whatever the guise under which they threaten our independence or assail our freedom, if we are true to the spirit and teaching for which this monument shall henceforth stand, we shall repel them with the same determination and courage with which the early settlers resisted all attacks upon their rights.

And now, Sir, we commit these memorials to the care of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association. May it cherish and preserve them as we would have them cherish and preserve the virtues they symbolize.

Long may they stand to tell the splendid story of the deeds our Fathers wrought; as long as yonder silent shaft shall uplift its majestic proportions to the sky, as long as these Green Mountains shall rise in rugged beauty above the peaceful valleys of our State, "while time rolls his ceaseless course," and, so long as they shall stand, may the memories be preserved of the events that cluster around this spot, and may the God of the Hills and the Valleys continue to bless and prosper this beautiful State of ours.

GOVERNOR GROUT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE MONUMENTS.—

History points to no greater love of country than Vermonters have shown. A people conceived in patriotism, born in adversity, and nurtured by resistance to aggression naturally love the homes they acquire under such circumstances.

Our great little State is a striking illustration, or perhaps, you may say demonstration, of courage, fortitude and hardship asserted in its early history by heroic diplomacy, original statesmanship and tireless energy.

Upon such conditions it has made a reputation with which we may well be satisfied and in which the world manifests a growing interest.

Our early life led us to an independence, bold as the lion and free as the bird that flies, with a form of government unique and just, rather than surrender which our hardy forefathers, led by Allen, Warner, and Baker, declared they would retire to the caves of the mountains and wage eternal war with Nature.

The spirit of this independence and the justice of this government constitute, in essence, our dear little Green Mountain commonwealth, the Vermont of 1897, and these characteristics stand out in a boldness and freedom which challenge universal admiration.

To-day we enjoy recalling some of those incidents which gave us our happy life and interesting character.

We are on historic ground, in the midst of monuments reminding us of the heroism and sacrifice involved in that great contention, devoted to securing the best liberty and humane government.

The great monument on the hill stands for the battle-field on which Vermonters voluntarily fought to show their attitude toward the Revolutionary struggle and that they loved the cause of the Republic; also to show knaves and speculators, from whatever quarter they might come, that when "they ruled o'er their lands, they would rule o'er their graves."

Long may that shaft stand, piercing the blue sky of God's eternal home, in honor of that noble action and those brave, noble actors.

Here, too, is a monument telling where the patriots who fell on that battle-field are buried, also indicating the last sleeping-place of the Hessians of that contest.

If the Hessians had not been here the Vermonters would not. So, in a sense, are we not under obligation to Burgoyne's unfortunate movement up this valley 120 years ago for the glory we would commemorate by this occasion?

We also see here a marker showing the traveler where the brave Stark baptized his fiery soul for the onset of that fierce battle, and announced the conditions of widowhood for his dear Mollie.

Last, but not least, we see the lithe catamount with countenance defying the encroachments of that time, when his duty required him to face the greedy Yorker, to earnestly protest against his unwarrantable aggression, and smile with a watchful blandness upon the wistful movements of other contiguous neighbors.

The great concernments of the patriots were considered in the old Catamount Tavern, of which this snarling wild beast was the significant sign, and the drastic enactments of those considerings, promptly enforced, always received, we are told, the gracious approval of this agile king of the forest.

These smaller monuments, so suitable and suggestive, are offered to the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association and the State; which offering is hereby, on behalf of the donees, appreciatingly accepted; thus placing them all under one responsibility and the public under a common obligation to the generous donors.

Congratulating the happy village of Bennington upon the success of this occasion, the historic honors, that circle so proudly about its hills and nestle so quietly in its beautiful valleys, I desire to assure its good people that all Vermont feels a just pride and desires a share in the interesting memories awakened by these patriotic ceremonies.

BENEDICTION.—

The Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. M. L. Severance, pastor of the Old First Church.

The procession reformed, and marched to Bennington village, where it was dismissed.

PART III.

THE CAMPFIRE IN THE AFTERNOON.

SPEAKERS, AND LETTERS OF REGRET.—The Proceedings of the aforesaid 30th Annual Encampment, G. A. R., has these further particulars: "At four o'clock, an open-air campfire was held on the Soldiers' Home grounds. A grand-stand had been erected, and seated thereon were the speakers, the prominent guests and many veterans and ladies. Judge Hugh Henry, of Chester, president of the Board of Trustees, of the Vermont Soldiers' Home, presided over the exercises and introduced the speakers: Gen. J. G. McCullough, Governor Grout, ex-Commander-in-Chief John Palmer, Secretary of State, New York; ex-Department Commander Linehan, of New Hampshire; Thomas Cogswell, of New Hampshire, New England Pension Agent; and Captain Jack Crawford. Other prominent men were present, but were not called upon to speak owing to the lateness of the hour.

"The speeches of General McCullough and Governor Grout were mostly devoted to praise of the heroism, sacrifices and the unsurpassed patriotism of the Green Mountain Boys during the Revolution and the Rebellion. Mr. Palmer's tribute to the valor and sacrifices of the citizen-soldiers, who rallied by the hundreds of thousands to the defense of the Republic during the dark days of the early sixties, was a most eloquent and finished effort, and was highly appreciated by all his old comrades who were present.

"Mr. Linehan was introduced as the man who, 'by the grace of God and the votes of Vermont,' will be the next Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. He referred to the heroic sacrifices of his old comrades, particularly of those who claim Old Ireland as the land of their nativity. Mr. Linehan is a native of the Emerald Isle, and his speech betrayed the fact that he is an Irishman. His speech still retains a brogue, though it is not particularly pronounced. His address was full of wit, and most of his points were illustrated by amusing stories of the words and deeds of the Irish soldiers who had fought under the Stars and Stripes.

"It was a disappointment to the audience that Mr. Cogswell's time for speaking was so limited, owing to the near ap-



THE PATRIOT AND HESSIAN MONUMENT.

proach of the time for the departure of his train. His opening words gave promise of an interesting address.

"The exercises were brought to a close by Capt. Crawford, who told some of his stories, and sang his version of 'Marching Through Georgia.'"

"The weather was delightful during the week, and we believe all present carried to their homes pleasant memories of their visit to old Bennington."

LETTERS OF REGRET.—

From President McKinley.—Replying to your letter of recent date, the President has requested me to express his regret that his engagements are such that it will be impossible to accept the invitation so cordially extended to him to attend the Thirtieth Annual Encampment of the Department of Vermont, to be held in Bennington, June 22nd and 23d, in connection with which you are to have a reunion of Vermont Veterans. The President notes with a great deal of pleasure your statement as the interesting character of the celebration and wishes me to assure you that nothing but the great pressure of his official duties and necessary engagements would prevent his visiting Vermont at the time indicated. May I ask you to be good enough to convey to your associates of the Committee of the Grand Army of Vermont the President's best wishes for a most successful and inspiring reunion. (Signed by Secretary Porter.)

Letters were, also, received from T. S. Clarkson, Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R. ; from Gen. R. A. Alger, Secretary of War ; from Mark B. Taylor, Chaplain-in-Chief ; from Past Commander-in-Chief Adams, Senator Morrill, Congressman Powers, Governor Black of New York, Wm. Seward Webb, and others.

